

Pact with unions clears the way for completion of 'Times' purchase

Mr Rupert Murdoch yesterday completed negotiations with the unions on operating arrangements on "The Times", "The Sunday Times" and the three supplements, and his purchase of Times Newspapers Ltd is expected to be

completed today. Although 563 full-time jobs are to go, union leaders said they were satisfied with the outcome. Mr Murdoch said: "I believe we now have a basis on which to go forward and ensure the continuance of these newspapers."

Mr Murdoch sees basis to ensure the future of group

By Paul Routledge and Donald Macintyre

Mr Rupert Murdoch's purchase of Times Newspapers Ltd is expected to be completed today after the conclusion of agreements with the newspaper unions on operating arrangements for the five titles.

A formal announcement to that effect was made last night at the end of three weeks of hard bargaining that yielded a reduction of 563 full-time jobs and an additional 100 shifts in a demanding exercise designed to put the company on a sound financial footing.

The last hurdle to be cleared was the future production of the educational, higher education and literary supplements. They will be printed outside London, and six companies have been invited to tender for the contract.

Mr Murdoch announced the successful conclusion to his negotiations with the unions at a brief but hectic press conference in the Times Newspapers' board room in New Printing House Square. He said: "I believe we now have a basis on which to go forward and ensure the continuance of these newspapers. Paying tribute to the role played by the unions, he added: "We expect to make them greater and better papers in the future."

Both sides made concessions in the talks, conducted against a three-week deadline set by the outgoing owners, Thomson British Holdings. Detailed agreement has yet to be reached with the unions on manning in the night printing area, but otherwise the two sides are fully in accord on wages, disputes procedure and staffing arrangements.

A new board for Times Newspapers Ltd has already been chosen. Mr Murdoch is chairman, and the managing director from March 1 will be Mr Gerald Long, a chief executive with Reuters's news agency. Mr John Collier and Mr William O'Neill become joint general managers. Mr Michael Ruda is director (advertising) and Mr Kenneth Beattie is director (circulation).

Mr William Rees-Mogg, editor of The Times, and Mr Harold Evans, editor of The Sunday Times, remain members of the board. All other existing directors appointed in the Thomson ownership period have resigned at their own request.

Printing union leaders last night said they were satisfied with the outcome, even though about 20 per cent of the 4,000-plus jobs at Times Newspapers were being surrendered under a voluntary redundancy scheme.

Mr Leslie Dixon, president of the National Graphical Association, whose members have accepted a shift to electronic composition with more than a 40 per cent job saving, said: "It has been a hard battle, but it has led to a satisfactory conclusion. I am confident that the agreement we have made will provide for viable newspapers under the ownership of Mr Murdoch."

The agreement on new printing facilities was the last one that had been on offer to the Thomson Organisation. "Murdoch had the common sense to accept it. They did not."

He hoped that the new agreement would make money for the titles "so that I can come and ask for more money". But Mr Murdoch was unequivocal in his response to a question about the risk of renewed industrial action in Gray's Inn Road. If that happened, "I will close the place down".

A new editor for The Times is to be appointed in about three weeks to succeed Mr Rees-Mogg, who had signified his intention to leave. There was a "long list" rather than a short one, Mr Murdoch said. The style of the paper would then be a matter for the new editor.

At a later meeting with fathers of the newspaper union, Mr Murdoch said that his News International company was taking over the company after it had made a loss of £15m last year. He declined to say how much he had paid for Times Newspapers, but promised that the figure would be revealed today, when legal arrangements for the transfer of ownership had been completed.



Mr Rupert Murdoch flanked by Mr William O'Neill (left, holding up the agreements) and Mr John Collier after the successful conclusion of yesterday's negotiations.

He said that people at Times Newspapers had had an unhappy time in recent years because of "the closure and one thing and another". There were bad relations and there were faults on both sides. The staff were "ready for a new change and a new beginning".

The editorial safeguards built into the takeover were referred to by Mr Kenneth Ashroo, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists. The union would be watching to ensure that these safeguards were observed.

Although no official breakdown of the job losses was given yesterday it has been possible to build up an approximate picture of some departmental shares of the cuts. They include unfilled vacancies as well as actual employees who will leave under the voluntary redundancy programme agreed jointly with the unions.

In the Times machine room, which had been one of the main stumbling blocks in talks until yesterday, the question whether the number of presses used should be reduced was agreed. Four presses had been proposed but were rejected in favour of three, which would be used for the production of up to 21 jobs which it would imply.

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Continued on page 2, Col 1

Heavy casualties in Zimbabwe as rival troops clash

From Stephen Taylor

Solway, Zimbabwe, Feb. 12

Solway became a war zone today in what has probably been the new nation's bloodiest day since independence.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, ordered the air force and an army battalion into action at hundreds of armed former Zipsa guerrillas converged on the city.

It was reported that, however, no one at all had been made.

The Zipsa troops apparently set out for Solway from two directions—one from the Gwai river, camp to the north and the other from a temporary military camp at the town of Esterville to the south.

Certainly one and possibly both groups were stopped with heavy casualties. At least 70 were thought to have been killed in the fighting.

The Zipsa troops are thought to have set out for Solway in response to clashes between former Zipsa guerrillas and Rhodesian troops in Esterville last night.

Esterville was the scene of heavy clashes in November between Zipsa elements loyal to Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Minister of Defence, and Rhodesian troops. Zipsa guerrillas who support Mr Mugabe, more than 50 people died in the clashes.

The fighting in Esterville last night started at about 9 pm when, according to Zipsa guerrillas, they had opened fire with heavy weapons including rockets, on a neighbouring camp in the township housing Zipsa men.

A company comprising former Rhodesian security troops who have been based in the township as a peace-keeping force, then came under attack and were besieged until this morning when their position was relieved.

After the initial clashes at Esterville, a movement of Zipsa forces started west. Mr Mugabe told Parliament today that "very sinister undertones" were being played out.

Early today three personnel carriers and two other vehicles set out containing Zipsa men from a township about 40 miles south of Solway. When only five miles south of the city, they ran into the former Rhodesian unit, which opened fire with rockets.

Later this morning at even larger Zipsa protest, comprising

hundreds of men, set out in 13 vehicles from their central camp, about 150 miles to the north-west.

They stopped at Karamba, where a Zipsa High Command representative was killed after urging them to turn back. The military column then proceeded.

It appears that at this stage Mr Mugabe decided to send in the Airforce. Meanwhile, fighting raged on at Karamba. Members of 1-4 Battalion, wearing their old Rhodesian insignia, encircled the township, blocking the country with military vehicles and poured mortar fire into what they believed to be Zipsa positions.

Zipsa elements had taken to the surrounding bush at about noon, putting a full in the fight. The armed country with military vehicles and poured mortar fire into what they believed to be Zipsa positions.

One man said he was leaving because he believed that the fighting would "start again, or worse".

A white captain of 1-4 Battalion, leaning on his rifle, said he and his men were attempting to ensure that no Zipsa men escaped the country.

It is quiet now, but the fighting could start again at any time, the captain said. About 200 men of the former security force battalion, which stayed in the township, were deployed inside Karamba.

Although Mr Mugabe told Parliament this afternoon that the Zipsa would not be allowed to use the 13-vehicle armed Zipsa column, it was later reported that the column included two army vehicles and it appeared that the Air Force had not gone ahead with the air strike.

The armed country was later reported to have turned back to Gwai river and the planned air strike had been called off.

A conservative death toll from the violence is 70. Vehicles being loaded in a local hospital were being hurried away and emergency arrangements were being made.

Solway was a ghost town today. Residents responded to a government call broadcast on radio to stay at home and not use telephones. Shops were closed and streets were deserted.

The violence around Zimbabwe's second city has not involved members of integrated army battalions, but it has been a serious threat to the Rhodesian Army.

Coronet and gate for police siege tie motif

By Stewart Tindler

A special tie designed by London policemen to mark their involvement in the Iranian Embassy siege last year is being recorded with the College of Arms. Ties to mark special, long or difficult cases are not unusual but few if any of the previous designs have reached the noble corridors of the College.

The tie is designed to sum up the essential ingredients or unusual elements of a case. In London they have been designed to mark cases as varied as the hunt for Lord Lucan, the Balcombe Street siege and the escape from prison of George Blake, the Soviet spy.

The latest tie is designed with three sets of stripes. Dark blue represents the Metropolitan Police and light blue represents the Special Services, which were involved in the siege. The stripes are meant to signify, with perhaps a hint of humour, the civil servants at the Home Office responsible for the operational measures up the embassy and the siege in a simple motif.

The embassy is in Princes Gate, South Kensington. The siege lasted six days. The resulting design is a prince's coronet above a gate. But the coronet is no common one, for example, on a trade mark. There are two official coronets. One is used by the Prince of Wales and the second by the other royal princes.

It is the latter, by special permission of Buckingham Palace, which has been incorporated in the design with the emblem of the college.

Yesterday a surveyor for the College of Arms, a particular emblem being entered here, told Mr Tindler that he had heard the tie was "fairly substantial" and would be produced.

He said the tie would go to policemen closely involved in the siege. They are usually paid for by the officers themselves and Mr Tindler said he was "fairly substantial" and would be produced.

Full Cabinet economic policy review sought

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

A review by the full Cabinet of the Government's economic policy is being sought in the four weeks remaining before the Budget by some of the ministers who are becoming most restive over the worsening effects of the recession.

That was learnt yesterday as a reaction was formed in Whitehall and Westminster to the speech by Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, on Wednesday, admitting that worsening circumstances were forcing the Government into adjustments of tactics and timing.

Such a Cabinet meeting would be highly unusual and it is not clear whether the Prime Minister would agree to it. The Cabinet has discussed the broad implications of economic policy on only two or three occasions in its two years of office. The period before the Budget is traditionally seen by Conservatives as the preserve of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The main concern of ministers who are not making the Government's central economic decisions is that the Chancellor must do as much as possible for industry and employment in the Budget.

It is only partially clear through in Mr Pym's speech, but there is pressure growing for giving industry relief on energy prices and especially on lower interest rates.

The concern has sharpened because, as Mr Pym hinted in his speech, the recession is such that many ministers do not believe that the economy can recover much this year; a couple even doubt severely whether there will much respite in 1982 either.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's original phrase last November that the recession was "bottoming out" was subsequently adopted by Mrs Thatcher and Mr John Nott, then Secretary of State for Trade, is now seen as premature by many ministers.

Mr Pym said nothing of it. The anxiety that it may now rebound on those in the Government who said so is evident.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, tackled Mrs Thatcher on Mr Pym's speech yesterday, but the Prime Minister predictably chose only to pick out the bits in it supporting her strategy, saying there was "excellent stuff" in it.

Mr Foot is known to believe, however, that Mr Pym has signalled that, whatever Mrs Thatcher may protest, the lady is indeed "turning".

The Labour leader, while welcoming the Government's new willingness to help industry to survive, would maintain that there is all the difference between a government doing so with conviction and one being dragged into it.

EEC urged to stop all steel aid

Britain will propose a strict timetable for the elimination of state subsidies to the European steel industry at a ministerial meeting in Brussels next month. Ministers are seeking the removal of all operating subsidies by the end of 1984. The Government will argue that its plans for the United Kingdom steel industry, both public and private, are in line with EEC Commission objectives. Whitehall is confident that its proposals will commend themselves to the Bonn Government and Germany's steel industry in particular.

Poles asked for rest from strikes

The new Polish Prime Minister has asked Solidarity, the independent trade union grouping, for a three-month respite from strikes. He said the Government would use the time to engage in the broadest possible dialogue and would set up a permanent commission to hold talks with the union.

Corsica blasted by bomb attacks

Forty-six bomb blasts erupted across the island of Corsica, centred on the town of Ajaccio, on Tuesday. No one was hurt in the explosions but extensive damage was caused to public buildings. The attacks were carried out by people from the French mainland.

Greek royalists welcome King

King Constantine returned to Greece for the first time in 13 years to attend the funeral of his mother, Queen Frederika. Enthusiastic royalists seized the coffin during the burial service and carried the former King on their shoulders chanting anti-government slogans.

Home News
Letters: On Ulster, from Mr E. S. D. Graham, and others; remands, from Lord Gardiner, CH; fading colour film, from Dr John Wall. **Letters**
Editorial: "The Times"
Features: A 9, 14
Charles McKean on a British architectural achievement; Geoffrey Smith on the "new party"; Michael Rhyon's Moscow Diary Arts, page 11
Nicholas Wapshott on John Cassavetes's Gloria and other new films in London; Michael Aspinwall on Arnold Lobel, writer of fables for children; Irving Loring on No



Party beats rift: Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of West Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) emphasised "The party will not split". It stood loyally and firmly behind the Government of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, he said after the party executive had produced a five-point declaration designed to end an internal crisis.

Surrealists to be auctioned

The finest group of Surrealist paintings ever likely to be sold at one tie will be offered at auction in London at the end of March. The 28 paintings were collected by Mr Edward James, the friend and patron of the Surrealists.

Talbot workers to fight closure

Workers at the Talbot car plant at Linwood, Scotland, are to mount a campaign to try to reverse the decision to close the factory.

Washington: Moscow takes unusual step of publishing confidential letter to Mr Haig

China: Four-page Special Report looks at the world's most populous country after the trial of Mao's widow

Classified advertisements:
Appointments, page 23; Car buyers guide, 24; Personal, 23, 24, 25; Property, 23

End of Blame at Oxford and Ned Chaiten on variety at the Phoenix Theatre; concert notices by William Mann and Stanley Sadie. Obituaries, page 16

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser of Neve, 74, Cape, Professor G. M. Edington. Business News, page 17-22

Stock Markets: Equities benefited from further selective buying particularly among second line stocks. Gifts suffered losses of 21 and the FT Index rose 37 to 499.4. Financial Editor: Imperial's unfilled promise; Dowry is feeling the NCB cutback.

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Unofficial action likely in militant coalfields

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

"Unofficial strikes are expected to break out in the militant coalfields next week as the miners square up for a full-scale conflict with the Government's hardline policy that will take political overtones have already emerged.

In an unprecedented show of unity, the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday voted 25 to 10 to support a national strike. The union would be watching to ensure that these safeguards were observed.

Although no official breakdown of the job losses was given yesterday it has been possible to build up an approximate picture of some departmental shares of the cuts. They include unfilled vacancies as well as actual employees who will leave under the voluntary redundancy programme agreed jointly with the unions.

In the Times machine room, which had been one of the main stumbling blocks in talks until yesterday, the question whether the number of presses used should be reduced was agreed. Four presses had been proposed but were rejected in favour of three, which would be used for the production of up to 21 jobs which it would imply.

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action", the policy resolution continued.

The union executive has been called into emergency session next Thursday to discuss the union's next move, and in the meantime urgent talks are being sought with energy, trade and employment ministers. Mr Joseph Gormley, the union president, said he "would not mind" seeing Mrs Thatcher.

In these discussions the union will not go on strike if the Government will accept eight million tonnes a year, should be halted, and that operating subsidies of the kind paid out by the governments of other EEC countries but being phased out here under the Single Market Act, 1990, should be paid.

"If no satisfactory response is made to our representations to the ministers, the national executive will ballot its members on strike action," the resolution concluded. There would then be talks with rail and steel workers' unions.

Mr Gormley predicted that if it goes to a strike vote there will be a four-to-one majority for industrial action, adding: "We would not go on strike if we thought we would lose."

But left-wing coalfield leaders are already making preparations for unofficial strikes that will be encouraged in the militant coalfields of Yorkshire, South Wales, Scotland, Kent and Derbyshire.

Pithead meetings designed to get strike votes are expected in South Wales on Monday.

The National Coal Board yesterday confirmed that local miners' meetings are to start immediately in all coalfields. Under the coal board's four-point programme to bring output into line with reduced demand, 10 million tonnes of capacity would be taken out at a possible cost of 30,000 jobs.

There is some firmly based expectation among moderate miners' leaders that the Cabinet will seek to defuse the crisis by conceding more generous cash incentives for pitmen to leave the industry.

Commons suspends Mr Paisley

By Hugh Royce

Parliamentary Correspondent, Westminster

In a flurry of charge and counter-charge, Mr Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist MP for Antrim North, was named yesterday by the Speaker of the House of Commons for refusing to withdraw a charge implying that Mr Humphrey Allott, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, was a liar.

The motion that Mr Paisley be suspended from the services of the House was carried without a division when it was found that only one MP, fellow Democratic Unionist, Mr Peter Robinson had offered himself as a teller for those against the removal of the rarer and honourable gentleman.

The Speaker then instructed Mr Paisley to leave the Chamber.

Under the rules of the House, Mr Paisley will remain suspended for five sitting days and will be allowed to return to his seat next Thursday.

After Mr Paisley's denials in Ulster over the past week it was clear that trouble was brewing from the moment that he and Mr Robinson passed themselves off as the two faces of the state of Northern Ireland questions yesterday.

Eruptions of volcanic proportions are not unusual on the member for Antrim North, and with Mr Gerard Fitz, Independent Unionist MP for Belfast West, in prominent position at the other side of the House, the stage was all set for an early shoot-out.

But not many MPs, even Mr Paisley, can have expected such rapid developments. Mr Allott

had scarcely got started on the first question when Mr Paisley leapt himself to his feet, asking the Secretary of State whether he would care to confirm or deny that the army patrol which was supposed to be observing Tyrone Abbey on the night of the murder of Sir Norman Macdonald, and his son, was being "wined and dined" at a well known republican house in the area.

Would he also confirm or deny that the helicopter that came to the help of the RUC came out of fuel and had to return to base and what action was being taken against the officer responsible for the patrol for not being in position on the night of that terrible incident?

Continued on page 2, Col 2

Defeat for Government on 'tapping'

By Bill Johnston

The Government failed yesterday to prevent a Labour-sponsored clause on telephone tapping from being inserted in the Communications Bill being reviewed by a Commons committee.

Mr John Goss, Conservative MP for Barnet, Hendon North, supported seven Labour members who were voting against the clause, which led to a defeat for the Government by one vote.

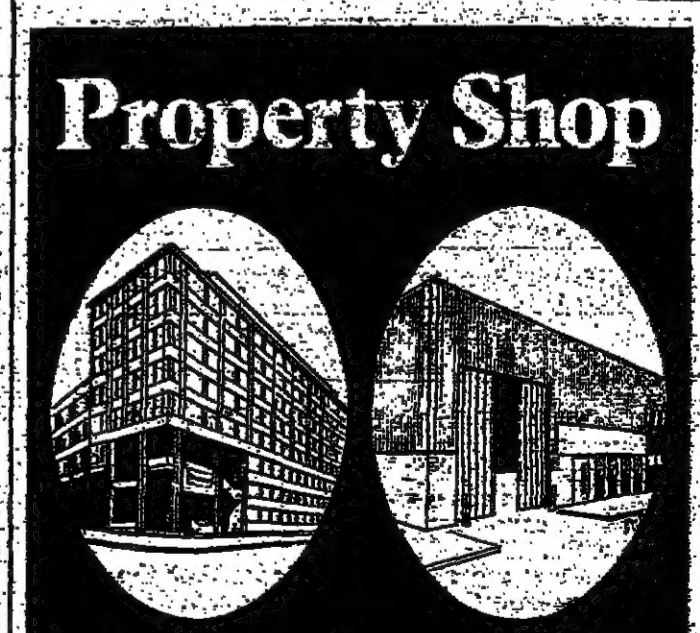
Mr Goss remained unconvinced about government policy on telephone tapping, despite the personal intervention of Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, on Wednesday in an attempt to dissuade him.

Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Industry and Technology, who is steering the Bill through the Commons, declared the Government's clear opposition to the insertion of the clause.

The clause was moved by Mr John McWilliam, Labour MP for Blaydon. It lays down the precise criteria to be used by the Home Secretary when issuing a warrant authorising telephone tapping either by the police, the customs and excise or the security forces.

In response to questions about press reports suggesting telephone tapping at the Conservative Party's headquarters in London, Mr Baker would neither confirm nor deny their validity.

Mr Goss made clear that he was unhappy about instances of telephone tapping for state security being discussed on the floor of the House of Commons. He intends to table an amendment to prevent that happening. Ministers' concern: Ministers were "last night" expressing serious concern at the Labour-sponsored clause and are expected to introduce an amendment when the Bill returns to the Commons at the report stage.



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End of great
dream
says Lord
Thomson

From Michael Leeson
New York, Feb 12
Lord Thomson of
Fonthill, 70, says the
dream of a new
deep water port
for the Channel
tunnel is a
family's dream.

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Lovely Emily, aged 70, hails from Crewe. Her main occupation is cruising along in a permanent state of ecstasy.

She's a good 3 inches tall and her favourite hobby is being seen around the very best places.

Emily's ambition is to meet all the top people, although according to her agent, Dorland Advertising, she has already done so!

Dorland wishes The Times a successful future with one of its own page 3 lovelies.

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HOME NEWS

Government may improve on 6% pay offer to public service workers to head off threat of disruption

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The Government is believed to be moving towards improving its 6 per cent pay offer to nearly 900,000 public service workers in the face of industrial action threatened next month by white collar civil servants.

Ministers met yesterday to discuss the challenge being planned against the Government's pay policy for the public sector and it was reliably reported that they agreed that an offer of about 7 or 7½ per cent could be made to union leaders.

Ministers are believed to be anxious that a new offer should not be tabled unless there were strong indications from the unions that the increase would be acceptable.

There has been some scepticism among Civil Service union officials that a small increase would be sufficient to cancel the planned campaign of industrial action, which is due to start with a national one-day strike next month, followed by a series of selective strikes designed to affect the Government's ability to collect revenues.

In addition to the 6 per cent being offered to the 530,000 white collar civil servants a similar increase has been put to 250,000 hospital ancillary workers and 30,000 ambulance men.

Further indications of the willingness of civil servants to embark on an unprecedented, concerted campaign of action came yesterday from the traditionally moderate Inland Revenue Staff Federation, whose members voted by eight to one in favour of strikes.

Meetings at 42 centres around the country recorded 24,993 votes in favour of action, with 3,152 against. The union's total membership is about 60,000 but it was emphasized by union officials that more than 8,000 members were unable to attend meetings because of the need to keep a skeleton service operating.

The votes among 1,000 staff at the tax computer centres at Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, and Shipley, near Bradford, which would play a crucial role in the campaign of guerrilla action, recorded a higher majority for action than the national vote.

Mr Anthony Christopher, the federation's general secretary, said last night: "This is a result which should concern the Government. We have not incited it. There is very deep concern among members over the Government's refusal to push pay research for 1981 and its denial of free arbitration."

A reputation for moderation, voted by a large majority to support the campaign of industrial action if the Government did not improve the 6 per cent offer.

Mr William McCall, the institution's general secretary, told the meeting: "It is important that the Government, Parliament and the community should understand that the whole of the Civil Service is completely disgusted at the way this Government is scrapping agreement after agreement and the shabby and shoddy way it is reflecting on the importance of the work that it does."

Union negotiators yesterday also met officials of the Civil Service Department to press their claim for a reduction in the working week to bring civil servants into line with the private sector.

Mr Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said the meeting was "disgraceful" and that officials had not taken into account the unions' arguments and had refused to entertain the claim. Union officials are expecting to have a further meeting on pay with Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and Minister responsible for the Civil Service, early next week when they hope the Government will increase the 6 per cent offer. The unions have said that without an improvement industrial action is inevitable.

Linwood car workers vote for campaign to save plant

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

Workers at the Talbot car plant at Linwood, near Glasgow, are to fight the decision by Peugeot SA, the French owners, to close down the operation next June, throwing 4,800 out of work.

A mass meeting yesterday voted overwhelmingly to start a public campaign to get the decision reversed. Shop stewards and normal working would continue for the time being, but industrial action was not ruled out.

Mr James Livingstone, convenor of shop stewards, said that only a few workers had voted against. The action would aim at protecting Linwood and the future of the car industry in Scotland, some other parts of which were in the same economic position as Linwood. "We will continue our fight. It will be our intention to use the major unions if necessary, and industrial action as well at the end of the day. But at this stage we are not proposing industrial action, and we have asked our members to work normally to ensure the company cannot accuse the unions or the workforce of being disruptive."

A trade union group representing all workers and staff at the plant is to meet representatives of Strathclyde Regional Council today, and on Sunday talks on tactics will take place with the Scottish TUC and shop and machinery in the plants in Coventry.

Workers at Linwood said yesterday that men in the engineering section of the plant had been found to be working on plans to transfer production of the Sunbeam car, the company's most popular British made model, to another plant.

It was feared that the Peugeot-Citroen group was seeking to move equipment from the body shop and machinery in the gearbox section.

Shop stewards ordered the work to stop. Mr Livingstone said that industrial action would be used if there was any attempt to move machinery from Linwood to allow the company to build Avenger or Sunbeam cars elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

The plant will shortly move to five days a week operation after a long spell on short-time working. The shop stewards said that the work force had accepted that, although they suspected that the burst of production was merely to build up stocks before closure, after the company had voted to

switch production to plants in England.

That intention has been denied by the management. One faint hope came yesterday during a BBC Radio Scotland interview with a spokesman for the international division of Nissan in Japan, which plans to open a production plant for Datsun cars in Britain. He said that Linwood might be a candidate for a new location, on which a feasibility study had begun.

The new Japanese plant would be built in a development area that had a local work force available and access to component manufacturers. But the spokesman made clear that Nissan preferred an undeveloped site that would allow it to build an ideal layout.

Linwood has the labour force but little else to match the Japanese criteria. It was one of the principal failures of the Scottish development that very little ancillary industry grew up alongside the car plant.

Mr John Davidson, secretary of the Confederation of British Industry in Scotland said that had satellite factories been established, some 15,000 jobs might now be at risk. The effect of the closure would have been felt throughout the whole British economy.

Mr Benn must wait for portfolio in the Shadow Cabinet

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Mr Wedgwood Benn is not for the moment being assigned a specific portfolio in the Labour Shadow Cabinet because Mr Michael Foot has filled all available posts, it was learnt last night. He will thus have to wait for a reshuffle or vacancy.

Mr Benn, who may be agreed with Mr Foot, Leader of the Opposition, make front-bench speeches, entered the Shadow Cabinet only because of the resignation of Mr William Rodgers. In the parliamentary party's election Mr Benn had been top of the list of those failing to secure election.

Before Mr Rodgers resigned, Mr Foot had been examining the possibility of giving him a special post as spokesman on regional industrial policy. That responsibility has meanwhile been given to Mr John Garrett.

That Mr Benn may challenge Mr Foot's policy in the election for deputy party leader to be held at the autumn conference is not at the moment regarded as likely by Mr Foot. Several key unions also oppose it.

Mr Benn has not made his position clear since he suggested according to members of the party's national executive, that they consider holding a special election conference before the autumn.

Given the unions' opposition, it is being assumed that Mr Benn would not stand and risk defeat in whatever electoral college formula then prevailed. However, such assumptions on left-wing tactics have in the past proved wrong.

Mr Foot today makes a considered defence of the Labour Party in response to Mrs Shirley Williams's resignation from the executive. He takes her resignation letter as in effect a departure from the party itself, and in a speech at Nelson, Lancashire, will make clear what he thinks of those who are harming the party in the manner of their leaving it.

City areas oppose loss of control over polytechnics

By Our Education Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities announced yesterday its total opposition to government proposals to remove higher education from local government control.

In a statement after yesterday's meeting of the association's policy committee Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the AMA, and Mrs Nicols Harrison, chairman of its education committee, said that such a move would be wrong financially and educationally.

The Government's proposals to set up a national body to administer and fund polytechnics and other maintained colleges with a large proportion of advanced work have only been set out in a ministerial paper but a consultation document is expected to be published in the late spring.

Mr Smart and Mrs Harrison said that at a time when the Government was intent on shutting down quangos, it was proposing to establish another "massive and expensive" one. They were convinced there was "little if anything to be gained from the proposals".

Seamen's agreement nearer

By Our Labour Staff Reporter

Seamen's leaders and shipping employers were moving towards agreement last night on the terms for arbitration to end the merchant navy dispute of the past five weeks.

The two sides met for more than 12 hours at the London offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) and late last night Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, said the signs were good that an agreement could be reached.

In return for a resumption of normal working by the union's members the employers appeared close to agreeing to table a 12 per cent interim offer.

Government 'winning cash cuts battle'

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government was winning the battle with local authorities over public expenditure cuts, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday.

In an interview with *The Times* he expressed little sympathy with those councils which complained that they had faithfully followed Government guidelines and were being unfairly treated. "In most cases they just have not done their homework properly."

"You would be surprised how often they cannot provide even the most elementary facts and figures. What they imagine to be a proper cost analysis is usually no more than an attempt to defend their present levels of consumption."

Nobody deplored more than he the need for drastic cuts in capital investment. But they were quicker and easier to achieve than reductions in current spending.

"You will not find me defending capital cuts. But I would say that there was no choice. The faster we can get current spending down, the faster we will be able to restore our capital investment programmes."

Housing bore the brunt of the burden, which made it vital to spend what resources were available on conserving and renovating the existing stock.

His principal motive for encouraging the sale of council houses was to reverse the polarization of society between home owners and council tenants. That was far more important than any savings that might accrue to taxpayers and ratepayers.

In recent years owners had seen an enormous rise in the equity value of their investments, while tenants had gained nothing at all. The effect had been to create "two nations", a situation he found indefensible.

Decision to drop sickness pay change confirmed

By Our Political Reporter

Confirmation that the Government planned to postpone its proposals to transfer sickness payments for the first eight weeks to employers was given by the Prime Minister in the Commons yesterday.

The scheme, which will still have the eight-week time scale, will be brought back in the next parliamentary session.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher had been asked by Mr David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, whether a report to that effect in *The Times* yesterday was true. If it was, it would be received with great joy by many people running small businesses, he said.

The Prime Minister, agreeing that the scheme would not appear in this session's Social Security Bill, said new proposals had arisen which would match more closely the money paid out and returned to employers.

Mrs Thatcher was referring to the fact that ministers have met with strong resistance from "Mazda" employers of small businesses, over the proposals. The Government had offered 50 per cent reimbursement to businesses through a cut in employers' national insurance contributions and delayed repayments, but that was not accepted.

Mr Michael Gyles, Conservative MP for Surrey, North-West and chairman of the Small Business Bureau, said last night: "The Government's decision is a victory for common sense. The proposals would have faced small businesses with serious cash flow problems."

Concerted opposition to Dublin summit aimed at hardline 'loyalists'

Spirit of Carson invoked in Paisley campaign

From David Nicholson-Lord
Belfast

The Rev Ian Paisley tonight embarks on a journey back in time. It will start at an Orange Order hall in Omagh, Co Tyrone, and end outside Stormont Castle next month.

Mr Paisley, in honour of Sir Edward (later Lord) Carson, perhaps the most venerated figure in unionism, calls it the Carson trail.

To those who view Ulster politics as a series of repeating patterns the past week, beginning with the midnight "show of strength" on an Antrim hillside, has provided ample confirmation. The sense of history feeding off itself has been increased by the continuing analysis on television of the roots of Ulster's troubles.

According to critics, that is what gave Mr Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party the theme for their campaign of opposition to the Dublin summit.

in December and the joint studies between Britain and the Irish Republic set in motion by it. Mr Paisley, they say, has been watching too much television.

Mr Paisley replies that his 11 rallies planned for the next six weeks, at which "loyalists" will be asked to sign a covenant of opposition to the Dublin "conspiracy", are indeed designed to replicate those held by Carson in the autumn of 1912 as a prelude to the anti-home rule covenant. Carson, like Mr Paisley on Monday, signed his covenant at Belfast City Hall.

The Democratic Unionist Party's position is summed up by its advertisement in a Belfast newspaper yesterday portraying the Dublin summit as a scorpion, with a united Ireland "as the sting in its tail. Government assurances that there will be no sellout are treated with contempt. The response of most critics to Mr Paisley's headline-making

is that he has seized the pretext of an ambiguous Dublin communiqué as the launching pad for his local government election campaign. The elections are due in May.

Mr Paisley, the argument runs, wishes to dissociate himself from his involvement in last year's failed devolution talks. He also seeks to recover some of the ground he lost at the end of the year by incautious remarks about referendums and an independent Ulster, and to project himself once more in the words of the advertisement as "Ulster's elected leader".

This strategy of appealing to hardline loyalism has led to some of Mr Paisley's Official Unionist opponents who feel themselves outkicked echoing the words of the advertisement on the grounds that it is likely to heighten sectarian tension at a time when the H-bomb issue looms once again.

Mr Paisley also places him at risk by inviting too many historical comparisons. Car, though like Mr Paisley a ski publicist and mass orator, born in Dublin and was, and foremost an Irish Unionist politician.

"I base my whole act upon the love of my own Ireland", he declared at first of his covenant rally September, 1912.

On that occasion, in E. killed, not, as tonight, Omagh, Carson made a triumphant entry into the town in open carriage, flanked by mounted escort of 240 far and accompanied by an armed 40,000 marchers.

Mr Paisley, whose arrival in Omagh is likely to be a smaller-scale affair, said he hopes to see "hundreds of thousands signatures. Perhaps wisely has set himself no target. Letters, pay

Surrealist paintings expected to fetch £1m

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's are to offer at auction on March 30, 28 Surrealist paintings from the collection of Edward James, all dating from between 1933 and 1939, the high point of the movement.

It is the finest group of Surrealist paintings ever likely to come simultaneously to auction; Christie's are estimating their value, perhaps conservatively, at £1m. The new day Sotheby's are to sell six more James pictures.

If it were not for the perennial streak of meanness in British government arts policy, the paintings would now be hanging with some 250 others collected by Mr James, in an exotic, specially constructed dome-shaped museum in the heart of Sussex. It would be the greatest Surrealist art gallery in the world.

In 1964 Mr James, a millionaire at the age of five, whose whole life pattern has followed the Surrealist credo, handed over his 6,000-acre estate at West Dean, West Sussex, to a charitable trust, the Edward James Foundation, with the art collection he had in England.

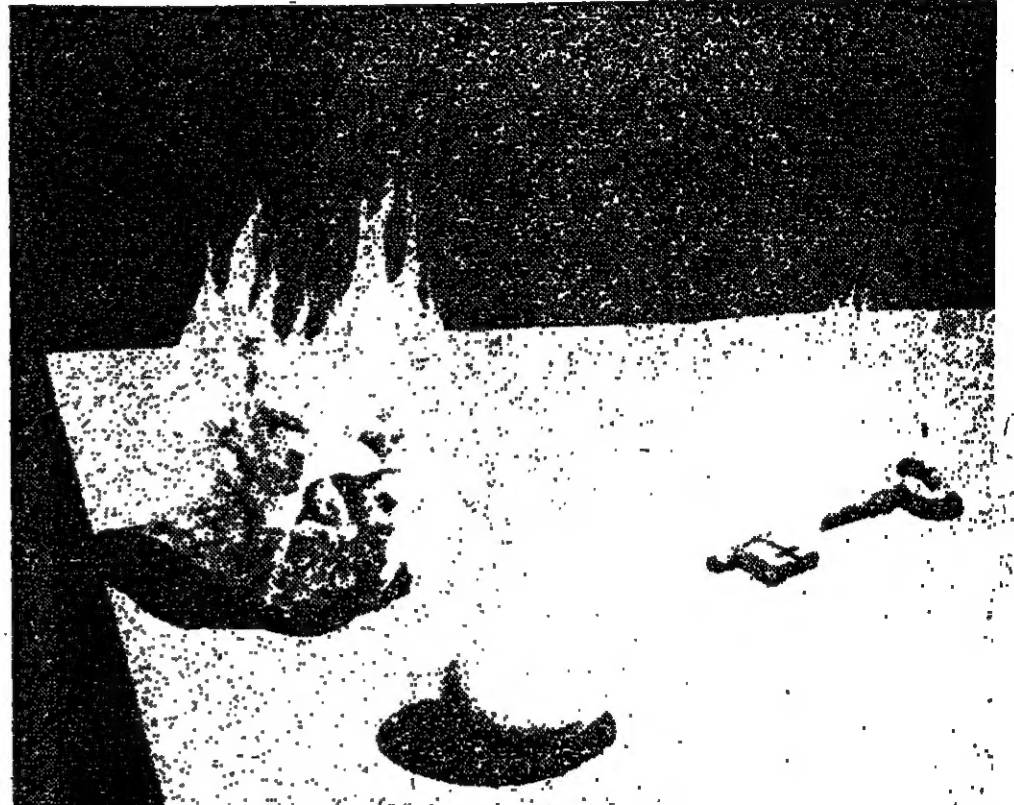
In 1976 he conceived the idea of building an art gallery on the West Dean estate to house his collection of paintings, some 220 by then belonging to the foundation and 80 or so from his private collection. The cost of constructing his home was estimated at £200,000.

He asked the British Government for a grant of £35,000 a year towards the cost of running it. Mr Hugh Jenkins, Labour Minister for the Arts at the time, turned him down.

The James foundation runs a college in the old Wyatt mansion at West Dean, teaching the restoration of antiquity and craft skills. At the same time it administers the estate, which includes nine tenant farms, a village and a smaller Lutyens house converted into a Surrealist dream house by James in the 1930s. While strong on assets, it is short on income and trustees decided some years ago to disperse all but a central core of the collection of paintings.

Much has already been sold, sometimes privately, sometimes through Sotheby's. Dali's "Le Sommeil", in which a melting head is seen propped up by crutches in an eerie coastal landscape.

Particularly fascinating is a series of small panels painted by Dali for the dining room of James's London home in Wimpole Street, which he lent to Magritte and Dali in successive years in the mid-1930s.



Above: René Magritte's "L'Echelle du Feu", which is dated 1938-39. Below: Salvador Dalí's "Le Sommeil", which he painted in 1937.



from their loan to the main Surrealist exhibitions of recent years, most notably Dali's "Le Sommeil", in which a melting head is seen propped up by crutches in an eerie coastal landscape.

Particularly fascinating is a series of small panels painted by Dali for the dining room of James's London home in Wimpole Street, which he lent to Magritte and Dali in successive years in the mid-1930s. The paintings were let into the panelling of the room, with a hidden lighting mechanism; when the panelling that hid them was rolled back, the lights came on and the luminous little fantasies were revealed.

They are a brilliant series: several beach scenes and distant views across sand, one an arrangement of prancing horses and riders, which, if one half closes the eyes, can be transformed into a woman's head. The sale also includes a telephone. James was the friend and patron of the Surrealist, buying their works and laboring in "events" the 1936 lecture to be given by Dali in a diving suit helmet; unfortunately that was inaudible inside the and nearly suffocated.

Coercion in fraud inquiry is denied

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Allegations that social security fraud investigators coerced unemployed men to use the benefit money to advertise their availability for work during interviews in locked rooms were strongly denied yesterday by Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security.

In each of three cases taken up by Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, instructions in the secret *Fraud Investigator's Guide* were respected, Mr Rossi said in a letter released last night.

Those instructions stated, inter alia: "Investigation must invariably be fair and unbiased and have regard to the legal constraints... firm measures against fraud must not result in the unacceptable treatment of perfectly honest people."

Mr Rossi disclosed that the men were called in for interview after his department received reports that necessitated questions being asked.

One, a motor mechanic, was said to have been seen repairing a car in a garage. Another had renewed his public service vehicle licence, stating that he had recent experience driving such vehicles. The third was reported to be leaving home early each day and returning after working hours.

"Quite clearly the department would have been failing in its duty if it did not check out the reports received," Mr Rossi wrote.

"Nothing causes greater scandal or a feeling of unfairness among ordinary hard-working men and women to see their pay packet decimated by

taxes and contributions while neighbours are drawing social benefits and doing a job on the side, tax-free."

In one case there was no evidence of the man working while drawing benefit. In the other two the claimants had signed statements and said they intended to become self-employed. Advertising for trade was suggested to one man as a possible way of finding customers.

Mr Rossi said none of the three men was locked in during the interviews, but the doors were locked by a simple internal mortise knob so that conversation could proceed in privacy.

He had been assured emphatically that none of the officers adopted a bullying, hectoring attitude, or threatened to withdraw benefit.

Prison officer cleared of murder

By Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Melvyn Jackson, aged 32, senior prison hospital at Winson Green jail, Birmingham, was cleared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday of murdering a man who was on remand at the prison.

Mr John Milward, stipendiary magistrate, said that there was no evidence to send him to Crown Court for trial.

Mr Douglas Draycott, the prosecution, alleged Jackson killed a man, Prosser, aged 32, of Big Sedgley, West Midlands, giving him a kick stomach. It was further that after realizing what he had done Mr Jackson had an elaborate cover-up.

Dog show judge cleared of corruption charges

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A senior dog show judge who was said to have lived in torment for three years after being accused of corruption was cleared at Manchester Crown Court yesterday of charges of corruption in fixing shows.

Since being accused of taking bribes to fix shows, Frederick Dempster, aged 73, said he had lost two-and-a-half stones in weight and had a heart attack. Mr Dempster, of Ashford Street, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, was alleged to have taken a £25 bribe in 1977 and to have agreed to accept a further £5 the next year. The

charges were made after a Sunday newspaper investigation into a claim by Mr David Stevens, a dog trainer, that corruption was rife at dog shows: he set out to expose it.

Mr Stevens, of Red Willows, Harlow, Essex, had alleged that he paid Mr Dempster £25 and offered the £5 to ensure that dogs did well at shows in Manchester and Leeds.

Mr Dempster, a judge at Cuff's on seven occasions, had always denied accepting bribes and had officiated at shows since he was a boy. "People have confidence in me," he said. He will be judging in Valencia, Spain, next month.

Surgeons' evidence supports brain death code of practice

By Our Medical Correspondent

Four months after the BBC *Panorama* programme on brain death, feelings still run high among those doctors who believe the public was unjustifiably frightened by the programme's questioning of the reliability of criteria used by Britain to diagnose irreversible death of the brain in patients maintained on artificial ventilators.

Next Thursday the medical issues will be debated for 90 minutes on BBC 1. The medical experts will attempt to allay the fears and uncertainties induced by the *Panorama* programme.

A preliminary step in that campaign, detailed evidence is published in the *British Medical Journal* today in support of the code of practice for the diagnosis of brain death recommended by the Conference of Royal Colleges and Faculties.

The colleges' code relies on a series of clinical tests carried out by experienced doctors and specifically denies the need for any confirmatory instrumental tests such as an electroencephalogram. The journal's article, by Glasgow neurosurgeon Professor Bryan Jennett, cites three bodies of evidence as justification of those clinical criteria.

The evidence is mainly based on the medical convention that the diagnosis of brain death is not necessarily followed immediately by the switching off of the ventilator, which would indeed make the diagnosis a self-fulfilling prophecy, as has been alleged by the critics.

In practice some patients will be kept on the ventilator for hours and sometimes days because relatives are unwilling to give permission for it to be switched off; in other cases the relatives cannot be found to give that permission; and a few doctors prefer to continue ventilation until the heart stops.

Does the heart always stop in those circumstances? The evidence collected by the neurosurgeons shows that the answer is "Yes". First, a review of 447 cases of brain death in published research reports showed no exceptions; once diagnosed as brain-dead all the patients died.

The second body of evidence came from three British neurosurgeons in Glasgow, Swansea and Cambridge, who together had diagnosed brain death in 609 patients, most of whom had either head injuries or bleeding inside the brain from rupture of a blood vessel.

Of those 609 patients ventilation was continued after brain death had been diagnosed in 326 cases, until eventually their hearts stopped. Again, none had recovered. The diagnosis was proved correct in every case.

Finally, the surgeons made an analysis of 1,939 patients with severe head injuries who had been admitted to hospitals in Britain, the Netherlands and the United States. Data on those patients had been collected for computer analysis for another research project. All of them had been in comas for at least six hours.

The clinical details of 1,003 patients who survived were examined to find whether at any time they had fulfilled the criteria for brain death. Only 127 had completely lost movement in all four limbs at their worst state. Of those, 102 still

had active eye movements and other reflexes.

The remaining 25 had been given drugs, as part of the procedure of ventilation, that were known to depress reflexes or cause muscle paralysis. Drug treatment is one of the specific exclusions in the British criteria.

The surgeons admit that perhaps it was unfortunate that but even in the aftermath of the recent public controversy about this issue we have been told of no cases that were well enough documented to be convincing.

Army helicopter hit by gunfire

An Army helicopter was hit by gunfire on Wednesday was picking up a foot soldier in south Armagh, no border, it was disclosed yesterday.

Irish police later said a fire with about five mask holders, and a search of 1,000 rounds of ammunition, a plastic bag and 9 explosive.

Correction

Our report yesterday on student fees wrongly said that Oxford had decreased its fees above the needed minima; but it was charging more.

مكتبة ابن الاصل

HOME NEWS

Efficiency the goal for improved Civil Service Department

By Peter Hennessy
The Prime Minister spelled out her prescription yesterday for a new, improved Civil Service Department after her announcement in the Commons last month that the department had been reformed and would not be merged with the Treasury.

In a White Paper published in response to a report from the Commons Select Committee on the Treasury and the Civil Service about the future of the Civil Service Department, the Government says its priority is "the pursuit of efficiency, particularly in the direct control of resources". The department would be reorganised to reflect that aim.

The document also discloses the preparation of a new scheme, known as "succession planning", designed to ensure that today's occupants of the highest posts in the Civil Service will be replaced by men and women chosen for their ability to control manpower and money.

The Government accepts the select committee's view that sustained industrial interest and direction are needed if the department is to avoid past disappointments, and recognises that it is "an essential instrument" in the achievement of the Government's policy.

Physical reorganisation has been kept to a minimum. About twenty people will be transferred when the department's

accountancy, finance and audit division moves into the Treasury.

Closer links between the department, the Treasury and the work of Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks & Spencer, and the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste, are to be achieved by a new body, under Treasury and not Civil Service Department chairmanship.

It has been charged with securing: (1) better planning of public spending programmes; (2) further development of financial responsibility and accountability by line managers in the Civil Service; (3) better matching of financial information produced for the public expenditure survey and estimates with that required for departmental management; and (4) a strengthening of internal audit inside departments.

The new body, whose exact composition is not disclosed in the White Paper, will be known as the Financial Management Commission. Its chairman will be Mr Geoffrey Limner, a Treasury deputy secretary.

Sitting with him will be Mr Kenneth Sharp, head of the Government's Accountancy Service, Mr Clive Priestley, an under-secretary from Sir Derek's staff in the Cabinet Office, and Mr Jonathan Clarkham.

The Future of the Civil Service Department, Government Observations on the First Report from the Treasury and Civil Service Committee, Session 1980-81, Command 8170, Stationery Office, £1.40.

Schools may get EEC cheap milk this year

By Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Cut-price milk financed by an EEC subsidy should be available this year to British schools. Dr Mary Abbott, secretary of the milk committee of the union, said after a meeting yesterday of the council of the National Farmers' Union that the milk scheme, originally due to start in the summer term, might have to wait until the autumn because of administrative complications.

Farmers and dairymen want the subsidised scheme, worth £25m a year, to start as soon as possible to replace school milk sales lost since the obligation for local authorities to provide free milk was reduced by the Education Act, 1980.

Ministers hope to announce in the spring that the scheme has been cleared in Brussels and is acceptable to British education authorities.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the cuts in free school milk made by Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Secretary of State for Education and Science. To qualify for the EEC subsidy Britain has to agree to pay from a year towards it and to channel it through the common agricultural policy instead of the rate support grant.

Farmers and dairymen believe a rise in sales through schools offers the main hope in stemming the decline in milk consumption. Last year nine English counties stopped distributing free school milk.



Honey and son, the first Australian Cattle Dogs to appear in the Crufts dog show for 20 years.

Injunction raised cost of new building by £1.2m, court told

By Richard Ford

The £6m cost of building an Islamic cultural centre opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum, in London, would rise by £1,200,000 because of a court injunction granted to a local resident, Miss Diane Hart, the actress, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Work on the building, being erected by the Aga Khan Foundation, a registered charity, would be extended by nine months because of the restrictions imposed on development operations, it was added.

Miss Hart, of Thurlow Crescent, South Kensington, opposed an appeal by the foundation against the injunction granted to her after a hearing in chambers last month. Mr Donald Keating, QC, for the foundation, said the injunction restricted the hours contractors can work at the site, in Cromwell Gardens, the time loading and unloading can take place and the use of cement mixers.

He added that in an affidavit Miss Hart said that the builders had given her £500 as she had to get away from the disturbance, but that she eventually sought help in hospital after taking pills and drinking. The hearing continues today.

Tory MPs press for child benefit increase

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government is being pressed from its own back benches to raise child benefits. A deputation of Conservative MPs and a peeress has met Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to urge the case for increasing child benefits in the Budget next month.

They want an increase of 95p a week, raising the benefit to £5.70 a child, to restore its value to the level in April, 1979. That would make good the fall in value of child benefits when they were raised last November to £4.75.

Conservative MPs warned ministers last year that they would insist on that shortfall being made good, and rejected as insufficient ministerial statements that the value of child benefits would be maintained, subject to economic circumstances. That view was emphasised by the deputation, led by Mr Thomas Benyon, Conservative MP for Abingdon.

They said that child benefits needed to be raised both to help families and to reduce the poverty trap. Evidence produced at the meeting by Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, indicated that a family with two children were better off earning £55 a week rather than £75. The MPs said after the meeting that they had found Sir Geoffrey "receptive".

Arts Council defends grants action

By Our Arts Reporter

Mr Kenneth Robinson, chairman of the Arts Council, said yesterday that having taken a decision to his more discriminating over the award of grants, he would be surprised if the council totally "reverted engines" next year and made only slight, across-the-board increases.

Both he and Sir Roy Shaw, the council's secretary-general, were critical of the way the recent allocation of cash, including the withdrawal of grants from 41 organisations, had been received. Mr Robinson said there had been "a good deal of misunderstanding and some misrepresentation".

Sir Roy said: "We did not withhold money, we redistributed it. Among the things most widely misunderstood was the decision to withdraw grants and the fact that there is no appeal. We had to act quickly in order not to keep our clients in suspense."

In the case of one big company there had been many letters about its quality of work over a period of two years, yet it had expressed surprise.

It is said the Arts Council is being very arrogant and that there should be an appeal. But this would be true only if we had removed money. What happened is that it was withdrawn from 41 and redistributed to 46 others.

The council would be anxious, he said, to find some way to give sufficient warnings to companies.

Foot attack on Duke over speech

By Our Parliamentary Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was yesterday drawn into the exchanges between Labour and Conservative MPs over the propriety of the speech on Monday by the Duke of Edinburgh to the need for the United Kingdom to possess a nuclear deterrent.

Mr Michael Hamilton, Conservative MP for Salisbury, asked the Prime Minister at her question time in the Commons whether she would send a message out of goodwill and congratulations to the Duke for his outstanding speech. He pointed out that Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, had recently sent a message to the Salisbury branch of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Mrs Thatcher replied that she was sure there were the same thoughts in elevated situations of those of the Government.

Any government wishing to defend its people must see that it had sufficient nuclear weapons to deter an aggressor.

There were Conservative protests as Mr Foot remarked that the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma (in whose memory the Duke gave the lecture at Cambridge) perhaps knew more about war and nuclear weapons than even the Duke of Edinburgh.

Mrs Thatcher replied that Mountbatten was never a unilateralist, nor would he ever have been, because he had too much regard for the liberties of this country.

Club doorman is cleared of disco killing

Henry Doneghey, a club doorman, was cleared by a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of the manslaughter of a man while evicting him from a disco club.

The victim, Mr John Sands, aged 30, a painter, of Cranworth Gardens, Stockwell, South London, had been trying to let friends into the club, the Music Machine, in Camden High Street, through an exit door without paying. Mr Michael Coombe, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Doneghey, aged 39, of Drafon Road, Kentish Town, was removing Mr Sands when he fell to the floor. He died despite resuscitation efforts by club staff.

Former casino director on 40 charges

A former assistant managing director of Coral Casinos, who was arrested by FBI agents in San Francisco last month, at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, yesterday faced 40 charges of theft from gaming clubs, forgery, false accounting and criminal deception involving about £584,000.

Alan George Watts, aged 40, was remanded on bail of £20,000 until March 12. A warrant had been issued at the court last August for his extradition from the United States.

Mr Watts, of no fixed address, waived extradition rights and returned to England voluntarily after his arrest on a warrant in the United States on January 27.

'Missing link' attacked as new M20 section opens

By Peter Waymark

Motorway Correspondent

A new section of the M20 mid-Kent motorway which will link London with the Channel ports opens today amid controversy over a 15-mile missing link between Maidstone and Ashford.

Mr Anthony Hart, chairman of Kent County Council planning and transportation committee, has described the Government's decision to suspend work on that stretch as ludicrous. There has also been criticism from industry and MPs.

Mr Hart said yesterday that the Government had got its

priorities wrong, extending the motorway system to declining ports like Hull, Grimsby and Immingham, while ignoring Dover, where traffic had more than doubled since 1970.

He is performing the opening ceremony today on the new 4.6-mile section of the M20 from West Kingsdown to Addington, which completes an unbroken 21-mile stretch from Swanley, on the edge of London, to south of Maidstone.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Transport, said: "The Government firmly intends that the M20 gap will be closed. It is only a question of timing."

Attempt to repeal 1824 law

By Our Social Services Correspondent

An all-party group of MPs are to attempt to repeal vagrancy offences dating back to 1824. They will introduce a 10-minute Bill on February 4 and seek to amend the Criminal Attempts Bill, which will outlaw the "sus" law.

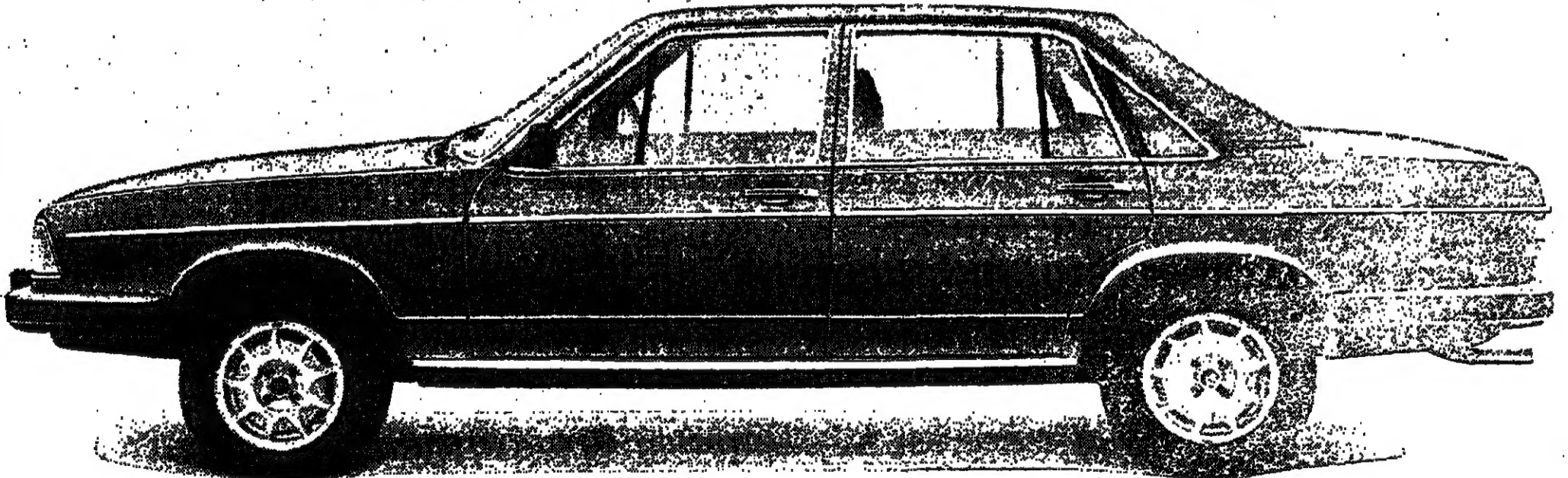
Mr Albert Stallard, Labour MP for Camden, St Pancras, North, who will introduce the new Bill, says in a statement

today that the punitive legislation of 1824 should not be the answer to unemployment and homelessness in 1981.

"It is utterly wrong that a 150-year-old law can still be used to punish as criminals people who only need a place to sleep or are poor and destitute."

The offences cover sleeping rough, begging and "being found on enclosed premises". In 1979, 268 people were imprisoned under the law.

Are we trying to make our competitors feel small?



	Audi 100 GL5S	Volvo 244 GL	Ford Granada 2.3 GL	Mercedes 200	Citroën 2400 Pallas
Price of model shown above	£7,444	£8,198	£8,264	£8,700	£8,639
Model range prices from	£6,186	£6,656	£6,179	£8,700	£6,179
Av. interior width (in.)	57.5	50	55	52	53
Front headroom (in.)	39	37	35	35	38
Rear headroom (in.)	34	34	34	34	32
Boot (cu.ft.)	22.7	21.5	14.3	14.7	16.8

PRICES INCLUDE CAR TAX AND V.A.T. AT THE CURRENT RATE, AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ALL CARS ARE CURRENT MODEL SPECIFICATIONS. INFORMATION SOURCE: "WHAT CAR?" MAGAZINE TESTS.

If you're one of those souls that wouldn't have a small car at any price, perhaps you'd like to read about one of the biggest cars you can buy. At any price.

We refer to the vastly accommodating Audi 100 GL5S.

The most cursory glance at our table will indicate that if space equals comfort, the Audi 100 is the most comfortable car in its class.

It is wider inside than any of its competitors—more than 10% wider than a Volvo 244, for example. It has more front headroom than any of its competitors.

And its boot is so big, it makes most of the others look like handbags.

In fact, you'd have to search very diligently indeed to find a car at any price level that gives you and your

passengers more room to spread yourselves. Its combination of performance and economy is equally impressive.

According to "What Car?" magazine it has a top speed of 110 mph, accelerates from 0-60 mph in 11.7 seconds and returns an overall fuel consumption figure of 26 mpg.

And only the Audi offers you a six-year warranty against rusting through from the inside.

If you're looking for an unashamedly big car, it's time you looked at the Audi 100.

You could save yourself a lot of money.

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HOME NEWS



Harbour for sale: The picturesque harbour of Portgarn, Dyfed, which, with much of the adjoining village, is for sale by tender. For some seventy years it had a thriving trade in slates and granite. Commercial operations

ceased in 1931 but it is still popular with yachtsmen and fishermen. The property also includes six cottages listed as of architectural interest, two houses, former port and quarry buildings, and some six and a half acres of

grazing, through which passes the Pembrokeshire coast footpath. The harbour and quayside structures are scheduled ancient monuments. The tenants' families have lived in the area for generations.

Photograph by Peter Knowles

Post Office curbs to remain

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Strict restrictions will remain on services post offices can offer across the country. An attempt to allow them to sell theatre tickets or any other form of private sector goods or services was defeated in committee yesterday.

An amendment to the Telecommunications Bill introduced by Mr Gregor Mackenzie, Labour MP for Rutherglen, and Mr Charles Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Oldham, was opposed by the Government side on the ground that it could create unfair competition for private traders.

Mr Michael Marshall, Under-Secretary of State for Industry was among those who argued that if post offices were free to sell, for example, air tickets, it could be considered unfair competition to travel agents.

As it stands, the Bill gives post offices considerably more flexibility in the range of goods they can offer. It enables them to carry out work for any other nationalized industry and not just for government departments. It also lists other specified bodies for whom transactions can be carried out across post office counters.

But even those limited extensions of scope for new business are subject to explicit consent from the Secretary of State for Industry.

Post Office Corporation executives, however, believe that the extensions as listed in the Bill give them sufficient scope to recoup the business the corporation expects to lose from proposed changes in social security benefit payments.

An amendment was tabled to Clause 55 of the Bill which describes the powers and duties of the Post Office, which is to be separated from the activities of the telecommunications service.

University entry hard for would-be vets

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Veterinary science remains the most difficult subject on which to enter university. Published yesterday by the Universities Central Council on Admission show that only one in five applicants who put veterinary science as their first choice were accepted at British universities last autumn.

The A level grades of the 1980 candidates are not yet available, but those for 1979 show that more than three-quarters of the successful veterinary science applicants achieved at least two grade Bs and an A. Only a quarter of all first degree entrants achieved those grades or better.

The next most "difficult" subject according to A level grades was medicine, with 60 per cent of successful candidates having two Bs and an A or better. However, if judged by the proportion of applicants

being accepted for the subject of their choice, one in three, medicine would come only equal eighth with art and design.

Competition for places in a particular subject seems to be a poor guide to its "difficulty" for university entry. Classics, for example, comes bottom in that list, with 82 per cent of applicants gaining places in their preferred subject, but third in the list of successful candidates with high A level grades.

Education, on the other hand, appears to be a very difficult subject on which to enter.

The accompanying chart ranks subjects according to the proportion of successful candidates with high A level grades. UCCA statistical supplement to the seventeenth report, 1978/9 (C2), (Universities Central Council of Admissions, PO Box 28, Chichester, Gloucestershire GL50 1HY).

Subject	No. of applicants for Oct. 1980, entry	% of successful candidates with two Bs and an A or better (1979)	% of applicants accepted for first degree in brackets
1. Veterinary science	1,485	78	10 (1)
2. Medicine	11,424	60	32 (8)
3. Classics	1,708	41	80 (26)
4. Mathematics	5,927	39	88 (26)
5. Law	8,567	36	33 (10)
6. Physics	3,183	34	34 (24)
7. Chemistry	5,033	33	63 (24)
8. English	7,264	28	42 (18)
9. Music	2,890	28	28 (20)
10. History	4,498	27	54 (28)
11. Electrical eng.	7,994	27	36 (12)
12. Economics	5,907	25	36 (12)
13. Accountancy	3,063	25	21 (2)
14. French	1,998	25	48 (10)
15. Mechanical eng.	6,141	22	47 (21)
16. Geography	4,280	20	27 (16)
17. Architecture	2,000	19	27 (16)
18. Art and design	1,573	19	32 (8)
19. Pharmacy	2,785	17	28 (4)
20. Biological sciences	2,618	16	24 (12)
21. Civil eng.	6,175	14	24 (12)
22. Biology	3,596	14	38 (14)
23. Psychology	2,800	13	31 (9)
24. Dentistry	2,889	11	31 (9)
25. Sociology	2,783	9	42 (18)
26. Agriculture	1,467	8	40 (16)
27. Education	2,105	4	28 (5)
All subjects	147,248	28	57

* Figures subject to error because of small size of sample

NCCL policy on closed shop 'unchanged'

By Lucy Hodges

The reported support of the National Council for Civil Liberties for Miss Joanna Harris, who was dismissed by Sandwell council, in the West Midlands, for refusing to join a union, has caused some surprise.

The national council has been known to be equivocal or rather, agnostic, about the closed shop in the past and questions were raised yesterday about what had happened to change its mind. The Times quoted the group as expressing the same sort of sentiments as Mr Norris McWhirter, deputy chairman of the Freedom Association.

Miss Patricia Hewitt, the council's general secretary, said

there was no change in its position. She had given a statement to the Press Association on Wednesday to the effect that Miss Harris's case was clearly one of unfair dismissal and therefore against the law.

The annual conference of the council, the policy-making body for the group, discussed the closed shop at its last two meetings and concluded that the issue raises conflicts of civil liberties which can be irreconcilable.

Miss Hewitt explained that there was, on the one hand, the individual's right not to join a union, as against the right of people at work, on the other hand, to organize together to improve their position. Most of the big trade

unions are affiliated to the council but it also has 5,000 individual members.

The executive committee of the council, had however, decided that where someone had a religious objection or where a closed shop was introduced and any of the existing employees did not want to join the union, they should not be made to.

Miss Harris, who worked for Sandwell before the closed shop agreement came into effect, was dismissed when she refused to join.

The council takes a different line on new employees joining an organization which has a closed shop agreement. They should not be entitled to protection.

Army arson charge

Gunner Robert Patrick Langdon, aged 20, of 32 Guided Weapons Regiment, was remanded in custody until next Monday by magistrates at Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday accused of arson at the officers' mess, where he worked as a waiter.

One in five children need special kind of care

It has been estimated that one out of every five children is handicapped in some way, either physically, mentally, or emotionally. With special care at the right time, some can grow up to achieve independence and lead full and useful lives. Many others can be helped to overcome their disabilities to a greater or lesser extent.

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Minister denies that Nationality Bill is aimed at 'births in transit lounges'

By Philip Webster
Parliamentary Staff

The Government's decision to depart in the British Nationality Bill from the principle that every child born in the United Kingdom has an automatic right to British citizenship was defended yesterday by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State, Home Office, as sound and being based on common sense and the realities of modern times.

He said that there were a wide range of circumstances in which there was no justification for continuing to allow children born in the United Kingdom to have citizenship unless one of the parents was subsequently accepted for settlement.

At the Commons standing committee on the Bill he said that such circumstances covered the couple in Britain for a short stay when a birth took place unexpectedly, people like students who were in the country for long periods but still temporarily, and people who had remained in breach of

entry conditions, or who had entered illegally.

The main uneasiness the Government felt was that allowing birth to confer citizenship on such children would mean that after they had gone home their own children, born overseas years later, would be British citizens by descent.

Additional British citizens would be created "in some numbers" who had little or no connection with the United Kingdom. He denied that the Government was aiming its proposals at "births in transit lounges and at public monuments."

To Opposition demands for information on the numbers involved, Mr Raison said he would not claim that any accurate figures existed. Nor would he argue that the figures were very relevant. The point was mainly one of principle, but even if the figures were as small as some had suggested they would still mount over the years with the effect of an increase in Britain's potential immigration commitment.

Mr Raison disclosed, however,

In brief

Former police chief remanded

James Collie, aged 56, a former chief superintendent of police, of Ashton Way, Epsom, Surrey, was remanded on bail until February 26 at West London Magistrates' Court yesterday charged that between July 13, 1980, and February 9 last he stole a Metropolitan Police warrant card valued at £1 belonging to the Metropolitan Police.

He is further charged that on February 9 at West Bromwich Underground station with intent to deceive he impersonated a police officer; and on the same occasion failed to pay a 70p fare.

Woman dies after attack by dogs

Mrs Dorothy Dow, aged 72, of Beechfield Road, East, Kent, who was savaged by two Doberman dogs while out shopping on Monday, has died in hospital after a heart attack. She was one of 11 people bitten by the dogs. Police said: "It seems the dogs went crazy when they were let out."

Extra money to fight delinquency

The Government is to make £150,000 more available to the Intermediate Treatment Fund to match other funds providing community-based projects to help to prevent delinquency.

Announcing the extra funds at the launching yesterday of Leicester Action for Youth Trust, Sir George Young, Under-Secretary of State for Health, said recent statistics showed a noticeable reduction in juvenile crime.

Police inquiry

A complaint against Mr Harry Atkinson, an assistant chief constable of Avon and Somerset Police, is being investigated, the police disclosed yesterday. He is recovering from an operation.

Sea speeding fine

William Mann, of Ladybank Hall, Dimple Dale, West Yorkshire, was fined £100 by Brighton magistrates yesterday for speeding off the coast at Brighton in a jet-powered boat.

Civic regalia warning

Police are urging town hall staffs in the North and Midlands to take extra precautions to safeguard their civic regalia, including mayors' gold chains of office, after a series of thefts.

WEST EUROPE

Forty-six bomb attacks blast Corsica after court passes prison sentences on autonomists

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 12

A spate of bomb attacks against Corsica last night sent the Court for State Security there had sentenced eight militants to prison terms ranging from 18 months to four years.

Seven others were given suspended sentences, the fine against them having been covered by their detention, pending trial.

There were no facilities in the 46 bomb attacks, which caused extensive damage to property. The number far exceeded that of the famous "blue night" of July 1978, a month after President Giscard d'Estaing visited Corsica promising economic support for the Corsican economy but refusing concessions to the autonomists.

The attacks were meant to demonstrate that, in spite of a wave of arrests, the autonomists' network throughout the island was unimpaired.

Last night's attacks were, as usual, aimed at public buildings; banks, shops, and the property of Frenchmen from the mainland or Algeria, as well as motor vehicles. In Ajaccio, for instance, the flat of the tax inspector was badly damaged as well as the law courts, a restaurant, and a cinema.

The Government has for

At Sagone, in the south, the post office, a service station and a beauty "barbers" were the targets. In Propriano the local office of the gas and electricity board, a symbol of French "colonialism" for the autonomists, was damaged.

The villa and a camping ground belonging to Parisians were partly destroyed near Calvi, in the north. At Saint Florent, a bank was singled out for two bomb attacks while at Biguglia, south of Bastia, three commercial premises which had already been damaged by explosives last year, received the autonomists' attention.

There seems no possibility of breaking out of the vicious circle of agitation and repression. Although the activists among the autonomists are in a tiny minority on the island—with the French Government maintaining that there is no cause to make the political concessions—they enjoy the passive support of many of their fellow islanders.

They hold a deep grievance against the Government in Paris, a feeling of injured pride exacerbated by economic difficulties, lack of job opportunities in Corsica, and the high rate of unemployment which compels young Corsicans to go into "exile" in France in search of work.

The Government has for

years used a combination of the stick and the carrot, subsidies and economic inducements. But the autonomists' agitation persists even if it is only a marginal phenomenon and creates a climate of uncertainty and fear.

In the trial which ended yesterday after nearly a month of hearings, the chief public prosecutor, in his summing up, struck a moderate note. He insisted that "the law derives its strength from restraint. If these men went too far, let us not follow in their footsteps."

The men were in court for their part in the so-called Bastia affair of January last year, when about 200 armed autonomists surrounded the village near Ajaccio and held three men whom they accused of being members of the "Francia" anti-autonomist organization, and agents provocateurs of the Government.

Two days later riot police cleared the village without firing a shot but 30 autonomists made a successful getaway and barricaded themselves in an Ajaccio hotel, where they held a dozen people. The hotel was invaded after a 48-hour siege by men of the special anti-gang squad, without loss of life. But in the streets of the city, two young Corsicans were shot and a policeman was killed. The trial opened on January

14 in a tense atmosphere because of the hunger strike staged by six of the eight men who had been committed to prison awaiting trial (the others had been freed on bail) in support of their demand for the status of political prisoners.

But they had decided to end their hunger strike in order to give evidence about the activities of members of anti-autonomist organizations acting as agents of the authorities. Counsel for the defence made a clear distinction between the Union of the Corsican People, the legal autonomist movement to which the accused belonged, and the terrorists of the separatist Corsican National Liberation Front.

They pleaded legitimate self-defence against a "terrorist anti-autonomist commando" and asked for the case to be dismissed. The prosecutor appeared to accept this in part when he said that the "real instigators of the Bastia case are not in court."

The case against three men alleged to be members of the anti-autonomist commando at Bastia is being investigated separately. If they are brought to trial it will do much to undermine the autonomists' contention that French justice applies double standards to rival groups of agitators.

Constantine supporters seize royal coffin

From Our Own Correspondent
Athens, Feb 12

King Constantine, the former King of the Hellenes, returned to Greece today for the first time in 13 years, to bury his mother, Queen Frederika, in the family graveyard at Tatoi, and less than 24 hours later to resume his life in exile.

His presence at the burial service provoked an exuberant outburst from one group of young supporters who seized the coffin and took it to the church, while another group carried the former King shoulder high.

At one point, when the crowd started chanting royalist slogans and anti-government slogans, the former king urged them to keep quiet. The police had earlier issued orders not to interfere during the service, although there was a great deal of pushing and screaming.

His brief visit touched off a heated political controversy that caught the Greek Government between opposition charges that it was violating the constitution, and protests from the royal family over the restrictions imposed at the funeral.

The body of Queen Frederika, the former queen mother, was laid to rest next to the grave of her husband, King Paul, after a funeral service at the chapel of the Tatoi summer palace, conducted by the Greek Patriarch, Archbishop Serapheim.

The coffin, draped in the royal standard, was flown today to Tatoi airfield from Madrid where Queen Frederika died at the age of 63.

For her only son, King Constantine, this was his first homecoming since his flight abroad after his abortive counter-coup against the military dictatorship in December, 1976. Seven years later, with the downfall of the junta, a popular referendum on the monarchy resulted in a two-to-one vote against him.

There was no fanfare and no guard of honour. He was met by Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, the Foreign Minister, who was there to greet members of foreign royal families.



King Constantine falls to his knees on reaching Greek soil after a 13-year exile.

The Greek Government, in an effort to minimize the political excitement over this visit and fearing that monarchist manifestations could provoke counter-demonstrations and riots, declared the district of Tatoi out of bounds to anyone except a few score guests that the royal family was allowed to invite.

At the same time it insisted that King Constantine should

not remain in Greece overnight, but leave as soon as the ceremony was over.

Other members of reigning royal houses who arrived privately included the Duke of Edinburgh, who flew in on board a two-engine RAF aircraft, the Queen's Flight, Princess Juliana of the Netherlands, Prince Albert of Belgium and other European royalty.

Leniency likely for returned terrorist

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 12

Michael Baumann, the second reformed terrorist to be found living in London, faces trial in West Berlin on five charges including bank robbery, bomb attacks and attempted murder.

But justice officials thought it likely that his public appeals to former comrades to "throw your guns away" and his changed ways would lead to a mild sentence if he was convicted. "Bigges are obliged to consider not only the crime itself, but other factors, such as whether the person has reformed," one official said.

Herr Baumann is being kept in Mainz prison, Berlin, after reformed voluntarily last night from London. The West German Federal Criminal Office declined to say whether it had provided the information which had led to the arrest of Herr Baumann.

But officials from the

criminal office confirmed that detectives from their highly specialised search squad had flown to London on receiving word of his arrest on Tuesday and that investigations into his contacts were continuing.

Herr Baumann, is charged with membership of a criminal organization, participation in the attempted rescue of two women terrorists from prison, several bank robberies and bomb attacks against the British Yacht Club and two British cars in Berlin.

He is also accused of the attempted murder of a policeman during a raid in which a comrade was shot. It was the death of this comrade, Herr Georg von Rauch, which induced Herr Baumann to renounce terrorism.

While the police sought him in vain, he gave interviews in West German magazines and even on television—appealing

to his comrades to give up their fight.

He also published a book in 1978 entitled *How It All Began* which described why he joined the June 2 Movement, a Berlin terrorist group, and why he later changed his mind.

Frau Astrid Proll, another reformed terrorist arrested in London about two years ago, was held up as an example by the Interior Ministry in an unsuccessful campaign to induce repentant terrorists to give themselves up.

Her sentence—five and a half years for bank robbery and falsifying documents—was in no way lenient and the court explained that although she had changed her lifestyle, she had not expressly dissociated herself from terrorism. But she was pardoned the rest of her sentence because she had already spent two thirds of it in jail.

US sceptical about results of Madrid talks

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Feb 12

The European Security Review conference entered today into the drafting stage of its final communiqué in keeping with its time table. But the delegates from the 35 countries that signed the Helsinki Final Act disclosed, as everyone suspected, that they had precious little ready to communicate to each other and they promptly adjourned.

Even an agenda for beginning the final stage of what has been throughout an ill-starred meeting because of the worsening East-West climate has not yet been fully agreed. In the corridors there was talk of things being in the doldrums. Mr Leonid Ilyichev, a Deputy Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs, was expecting to return to Moscow without any significant developments

the conference might still produce.

One of the two working groups which today was little to say for itself was precisely the one charged with a follow-up meeting in Madrid in order to keep the Helsinki process alive.

Today's session took place under the impact of a tough speech delivered last yesterday by Mr Max Kampelman, the chief American delegate. At a lengthy session with Mr Ilyichev, in the "Chair," Mr Kampelman restated the West's basic taste for scepticism towards the Russians' insistence that the Madrid meeting must end with agreement to hold a disarmament conference.

In a single sentence Mr Kampelman made it clear how little appropriate the United States judged the present juncture in international relations

for any serious disarmament effort.

"My country has reluctantly concluded that it must now strengthen its armed forces," he said flatly.

Mr Kampelman has evidently not yet received his instructions from the new Reagan Administration on the stand the United States will take over the French disarmament proposal, tabled before Christmas and now supported in varying degrees by all the other Nato countries. The proposal is limited in scope to measures concerning land forces that could build up mutual confidence.

Without committing himself, Mr Kampelman commended to others the French draft's emphasis on measures of real significance, verifiable, and extending to the Ural mountains. Mr Kampelman devoted much of his speech to explaining why the Soviet-supported Polish

proposal for a conference on military disarmament was detente was wholly unacceptable.

"It is absurd to believe that confidence in Europe can be built by such declaratory measures," he concluded. "Such assurances are especially hollow in the face of the Soviet Union's brutal invasion of Afghanistan, its determination and continuing military expansion, and its obvious reluctance to accept the concepts of 'mutual confidence' and 'verification'."

He ridiculed the Soviet Union's reluctance to accept measures to build up confidence should apply to the 250,000 Soviet troops within its western frontier.

He also pointed out that the Soviet Union's reluctance to accept measures to build up confidence should apply to the 250,000 Soviet troops within its western frontier.

WEST-EUROPE

Germans infuriated by British stance on EEC fishing policy

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 12

The collapse in the early hours of this morning of the unopposed attempt by EEC ministers of agriculture to agree on a common fisheries policy has seriously strained Britain's relations with West Germany.

Mr Peter Walker, infuriated by the West German counterparty, Herr Josef Eril, by refusing to approve an agreement with Canada that would allow EEC boats to fish off Labrador in return for tariff reductions on Canadian sea food exports to the Community.

The agreement poses problems in that most of the Canadian fish would be sold on the already depressed British market, but Mr Walker's main reason for withholding approval was to retain a bargaining counter in the dispute over the EEC's internal fisheries regime.

Under the agreement some 14,500 tonnes of fish, mainly cod, could be caught by EEC boats in Canadian waters, West German trawlermen, who get the bulk of this catch, are angry and frustrated at being denied such a valuable haul.

The Germans say that unless their fishermen can get into Canadian waters by the beginning of March at the latest the agreement's value will be much reduced because after that date icebergs make fishing dangerous.

Herr Eril is convinced that the British are now maintaining their veto of the Canadian agreement out of sheer malice. He accused Mr Walker of "unreasonably conduct" and said he was an "even more unpleasant negotiator than Mr John Silkin, the British Agriculture Minister and noted anti-market-eteer."

The Germans were not the only ones to be irritated by Walker's permanent. When talks broke down last December, most of the blame

was aimed at France—but there was a lot more sympathy for the French point of view last night.

In the eyes of the Germans an dthe French, at least, there was a clear link between last May's agreement on Britain's EEC budget refund and an early solution to the fisheries dispute, and it was being openly suggested yesterday that Britain had reneged on its part of the bargain.

The atmosphere is bound to be much more difficult when agriculture ministers meet again on March 9 and 10. There is a danger that the whole dispute will become caught up in the annual negotiations on farm prices. With the French presidential elections only a month away, M Daniel Hoeffel, the French Fisheries Minister, will find it even harder to offer concessions.

The one glimmer of light is that the ministers of agriculture, for the first time this week, started to look at ways of satisfying Mr Walker's most contentious demand—that access of continental fishing vessels to British coastal waters should be physically controlled.

But the two main protagonists, on the one hand, the British who demand that should govern fishing within 12 miles of the British coast has narrowed. The French can probably accept that this zone should be reserved essentially for British boats provided the French can maintain a reasonable level of traditional fishing.

But much more difficult is the British demand for a ban on boats more than 80ft long in areas beyond 12 miles off the north of Scotland and in the English Channel. The French say that beyond 12 miles the rules of free access must be guaranteed. The Dutch-sponsored compromise—a system of licensing—missed the main point, a lack of detailed preparation.

Food lorries held up by fishermen's barricades

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 12

Angry West German fishermen today stopped lorryloads of French, Danish and Dutch fish reaching processing factories at Bremerhaven in protest at the failure of the Brussels negotiations.

By mid-afternoon eight refrigerator lorries were held up by the fishermen on the approach roads to the harbour. The fishermen said they would put up similar road blocks to night around Cuxhaven, West Germany's other big deep sea fishing port.

Some of the fish had been brought in to make up for the lack of German fish caused by the delays in Brussels.

Yesterday the fishermen occupied the locks at the entrance to the harbour and prevented a French vessel from entering. They hinted that they might establish road blocks on the border with Denmark, thought to be partly responsible for the lack of agreement. "We will first find out who is the bogymen of Europe and then consider further measures," a spokesman said. The fishermen said that if the German deep sea fishing vessels

had to return from their present fishing grounds off Canada and eastern Greenland for lack of further quotas they would blockade the big north German ports.

In Hamburg, seven offshore fishing vessels today blockaded the Elbe in protest at the pollution of the river.

British priority: In spite of the breakdown of fishing talks in Brussels a few hours earlier, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries yesterday spelt out the Government's priorities for when the EEC finally arrives at a common fisheries policy (Our parliamentary staff write).

"The overall objective is to try to get the Community to agree on fishing opportunities and catching effort," he told the standing committee in the House of Commons considering the Fisheries Bill.

To do that they must first look at scrapping grants to deal with that section of the British fishing fleet which no longer has opportunities open to it, and, secondly, they would lay strong emphasis on grants for modernisation, improvement and building new vessels.

Italian police chief lifts secrecy

Single unit is proposed to tackle twin evils

From Peter Nichols
Milan, Feb 12

This was one of those rare occasions on which what was needed was less important than what it happened at all. General Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa, until the most celebrated scourge of Italian terrorists, talked publicly in Milan about his work and about himself.

He called for the setting up of a single organization with a single approach to the two problems of the Mafia and terrorism. In his 40 years with the carabinieri, the general has personally faced both.

He admitted today that he clearly saw himself as the model, or the carabinieri officer in one of Leonardo Sciascia's novels about the Mafia. But he is best known for his brief year at the head of the carabinieri's anti-terrorist squad, a post created for him in the summer of 1978 as part of an effort to convince public opinion that something was being done after the murder by terrorists of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister.

General Dalla Chiesa no longer has special functions of anti-terrorism. The post was abolished when he took over the northern division of the carabinieri which has 27,000 men and is based here. He still holds the post.

His reputation in the past was for vigour and dedication, a certain impetuosity, a notable ability to win loyalty and a preference for the greatest possible degree of secrecy. He did not, as confirmed today, give his direct telephone number even to his children.

He was the first military figure in Italy's postwar democracy to make a formidable name for himself in the public eye even if he himself is the first to deny any political ambitions. Indeed, talking to him it was noticeable how great was his formal respect for the politicians. More to the point today was the day the secrecy

was lifted. The general agreed to be interviewed for television by Senator Enzo Biagi, a well-known

writer and journalist. They invited a small group of guests to listen and then to continue over lunch with this process of revealing the general's true self.

Talking about his work against the terrorists, he said that he did not think Italian terrorism was different in kind from that elsewhere except for the Italian emotionalism—"A kind of drug which we carry around with us. A light drug but it is there."

On the question of inspiration from abroad for Italian terrorism he said: "When there are two powers—two worlds—opposed to each other, it would be absurd to think that both sides would not be active in the search for a theatre in which to pursue certain strategies in economic and political fields."

His humanity began to emerge clearly when he talked of the value of repentance among terrorists. A young man might become a terrorist almost in spite of himself, being forced to take a new step by his leaders with every new operation until he had reached the point of killing his first victim.

The general felt there must be terrorists seeking "liberation" from what they had done, a way to save themselves and others. He had always supported measures which would encourage repentance.

He made only one distinction between right-wing and left-wing terrorism. The right had a cultural background, sparse in content and poorly digested, so much so that it leads to more noticeable degree of danger because of its unpredictability and immediacy. The left on the other hand has an ideological strain on which it based a strategy of violence against the state's institutions.

Had we made any mistakes? Well, he might have made one by coming here today he suggested—but hardly. Apart from some nervous handwringing at the beginning, he carried off the occasion with a mixture of sentiment and decision.

OVERSEAS

Dry humour causes unlikely row

From Michael Leppman
New York, Feb 12

New Yorkers are seldom content without some intangible dread to worry about and they have been working themselves into a rare fret about the prospect of a spring drought.

Nerves are so frayed that Mr Edward Koch, the Mayor, has found himself in an unlikely slanging match with the citizens of Greenwich, Connecticut.

All over the north-eastern United States, after an arid autumn and winter, reservoirs are at less than a third of their capacity. Heavy rain yesterday took some of the edge from the doom-watching, but more rain-fall is needed before fears are truly dampened.

Posters and advertisements were urging us to save all we can—no more baths, no more showers. Mr Koch has been filmed shaving from a basin instead of under a running tap, and he has invented a rude little rhyme whose import is to encourage less frequent flushing of the lavatory.

Carried away by his enthusiasm, the mayor warned us all of the fate of the poor people of Greenwich, whose reservoirs are even emptier than ours. "People there don't take showers every day any more," he said.

It's getting so you can tell when someone comes from Greenwich, Connecticut. We don't want that to happen in New York City."

The clear implication is that people from Greenwich stink and that they were swift to react. Had there been enough water, they would have worked themselves into a rare lather.

The mayor protested that he had meant no harm, that he had merely been trying to dramatize the situation to bring home its gravity. "A little humour makes the pain bearable," he explained.

Mr Koch is up for reelection this year and it is lucky that the citizens of Greenwich do not have a vote. Otherwise he would, in the local parlour, take a bath.

Zimbabwe plan to attract aid

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, Feb 12

The Zimbabwe Government today outlined a three-year economic plan as a prelude to a conference of aid donors due to be held here next month, when it hopes to obtain \$221,200m (about £800m) in foreign capital for land and development projects.

Announcing the scheme, Mr Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Economic Planning and Development, said Zimbabwe needed "a single massive injection of aid" to overcome inequalities and set it on the road to prosperity.

While the Lancaster House agreement leading to Zimbabwe's independence recognized the need for such a programme it had not set out the methods for mobilising aid and Mr Chidzero said, the response of the international community had so far been disappointing.

This point has been made frequently by ministers here, notably by Senator Enos Nkala, Minister of Finance, who told the House of Assembly recently that Zimbabwe was "at war" with Britain over aid.

Foreign governments have so far promised Zimbabwe a total of \$219.5m in grants and loans. Of the \$221.2m pledged in grants, about 40 per cent has been received while less than 1 per cent of about \$265m expected in loans has been received.

Mr Chidzero described the conference—to which 45 nations and representatives of the EEC, the World Bank, the IMF, Opec and the African Development Bank have been invited—as the "most significant challenge to mankind since World War Two."

"Our claims are not begging," Mr Chidzero said. The country had the resources and infrastructure to enable it to become a future donor to other Third World countries.

Black editors named: The appointment of three blacks in place of whites as editors of Zimbabwe's three main newspapers was announced by the Zimbabwe Newspapers Group today.

Mr Robin Drew, editor of The Herald is to be replaced by Mr Farayi Mnyuki, publicity secretary in the United States for Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF Party. Mr Mnyuki has written for the Times of Zambia and the Zambia Daily Mail.

Mr Sandy Robertson, editor of the Bulawayo Chronicle, is to be replaced by Mr Tommy Sibele, former chief reporter on the Daily News in Tanzania, and Mr Willie Musarurwa, former publicity secretary for Mr Nkomo will take over from Mr Eric Richmond as editor of the Sunday Mail.—Reuters.

Japan's loss of islands seen as punishment

Moscow, Feb 12.—Japan has no claim to the Kurile Islands because the loss of those territories was "the punishment it deserved" after the Second World War, the Soviet weekly New Times said today.

It condemned the "anti-Soviet campaign" of demonstrations held in Japan earlier this week, adding: "The principle of the immutability of post-war frontiers is the most important condition of lasting peace."—UPI.

South Africans claim white extremist group is broken up

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Feb 12

The South African authorities believe they have smashed an extreme right-wing organization which for the past 18 months has been carrying out a campaign of bombings and intimidation against verligte (liberal) academics, non-racial institutions, black leaders and blacks living illegally in white urban areas.

Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Police, announced earlier this week that the security police had detained four leading suspects of an organization known as the Wit Kommando (White Commando) and that they were hoping for another arrest in the near future.

Among those detained was Mr E. K. Zephaniah, leader of the National Front in South Africa which has close links with its British counterpart. Mr Le Grange also said that police had uncovered a large armoury of modern explosives, detonators and weapons.

The Wit Kommando is alleged to have been responsible for a whole series of violent incidents in recent months. These include bomb explosions in the offices of two prominent African academics, Professor Jan Lombard of Pretoria University and Professor Franz Maritz of the University of South Africa.

The explosion at Professor Lombard's office came after the publication of a set of proposals by him for a multiracial dispensation in Natal involving whites, Indians and blacks. Professor Maritz's offices were blown up after he had appeared as a defence witness at the recent "Silverton bank siege" trial in Pretoria during which he compared the rise of black nationalism to the development of Afrikaner nationalism and gave warning that a "man who sits in jail today may tomorrow sit in government."

Other incidents attributed to the Wit Kommando include a bomb explosion last month outside the office of a member of the Natal provincial assembly in Durban, a bomb attack on

the house of the Transkei consul in Port Elizabeth and bombs at two non-racial drive-in cinemas.

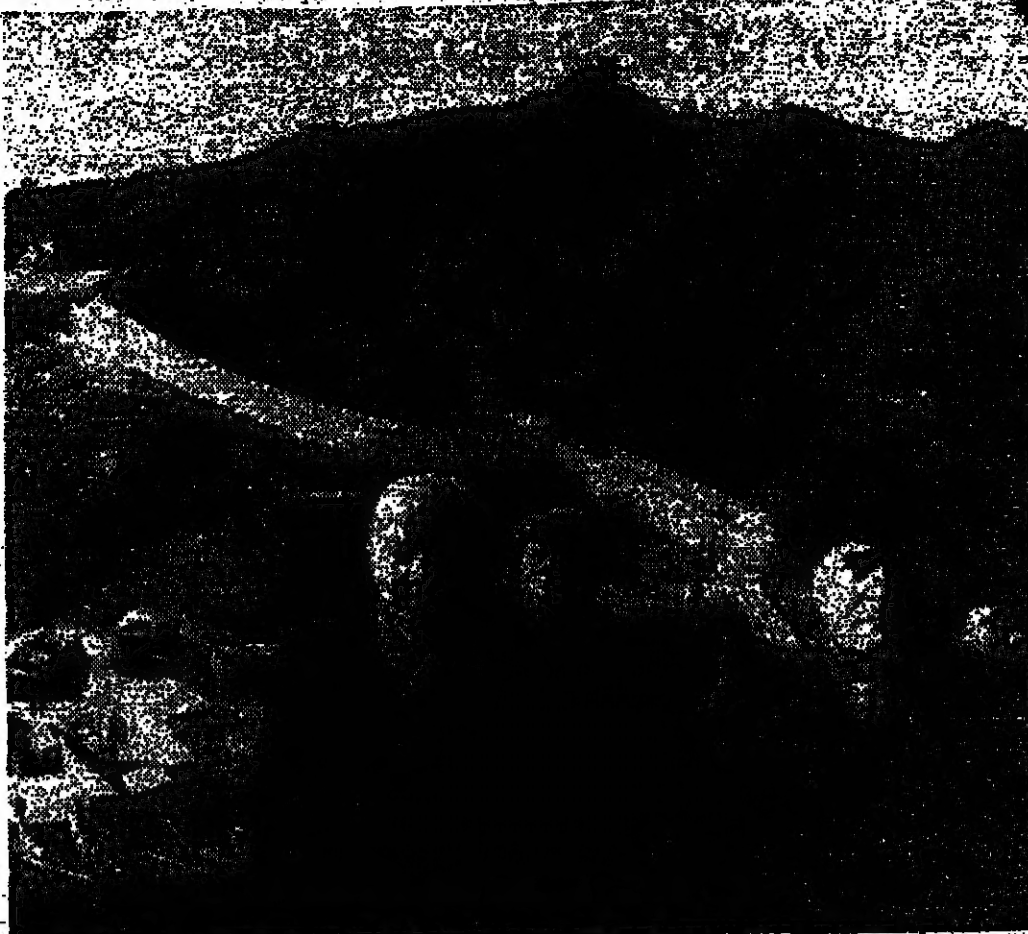
A number of prominent blacks, among them Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, have received threatening letters from the Wit Kommando and a number of Coloureds and Indians living in twilight areas of Johannesburg have been warned that their homes would be blown up if they did not move out by the end of this week.

White extremist organizations are not new to South Africa. Some have had distinguished members. The Ossewa Brandwag, which carried out a campaign of bombings and terror during the Second World War, counted Mr John Vorster, the former Prime Minister, and General Hendrik van den Bergh, former head of the Bureau of State Security among its members.

For a number of years an organization known as Scorpio terrorized white liberals, mainly in the Cape region. Some of the Government's most outspoken critics, such as Mrs Helen Joseph, have been the constant targets of threatening telephone calls, "dirty" tricks and gun attacks.

What is significant about the new wave of white extremism, however, is that it is increasingly directed at Afrikaners rather than English-speaking whites and that it comes at a time when there is a growing right-wing reaction against the Government's cautiously reformist policies.

This mood of white reaction has been expressed by a recently created women's organization known as the Koppieskommando. The Koppieskommando, who are said to number about 7,000 and who operate a cell system similar to underground insurgent organizations, wear black bonnets and capes to symbolize the era of darkness which they believe is taking over the country.



M. Francois Mitterrand, the French Socialist leader, walking beside the Great Wall of China. He is spending a week in the country.

Legal snag for Britons held in Iran

From Tony Alloway
Tehran, Feb 12

Iran's Supreme Court leader said today that there was still a legal difficulty to be settled before four jailed Britons could be freed.

"There is one more question that should be explained and made clear, and after that they can release them," Ayatollah Beheshti, who also heads the powerful Islamic Republican Party, said. He added: "I don't think it is anything serious."

The four Britons, Dr John and Dr Audrey Goleman, Miss Jean Waddell, who are missionaries and Mr Andrew Pyke, businessman have been imprisoned by the Iranian author-

ities since last August. No charges have so far been laid against them.

Last week Ayatollah Beheshti told journalists that the judicial authorities would make a "final decision" concerning the cases of the four. He indicated today, however, that while that decision had been taken and allegations of spying appeared to be included in this a further legal difficulty had cropped up.

Speaking in English, he would only answer three of our questions before he was spirited secretly out of the mosque to avoid the crowds that continued to wait for him. He said the outstanding problem still involved a question of their

"guilt", a sign that more than a mere legal technicality was involved.

But he also said that the need to clear the difficulty up arose from a fear that, if it was left outstanding, the authorities concerned would be left open to "public" criticism.

Ayatollah Beheshti added that he had not been able to meet Mr Terry Waite, representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has been conducting secret negotiations for the Britons' release.

But he said: "I have told the authorities in the revolutionary court that they should try to (hand over) these four to this priest."

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OVERSEAS

Moscow takes unusual step of publishing diplomatic reply to US

From David Cross
Washington, Feb 12

The State Department said today that it "regretted" that the Soviet Union had chosen to take "the unusual step" of publishing the text of a long confidential letter from Mr. Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to Mr. Alexander Haig, his new American counterpart.

The letter, copies of which were issued to news organizations in Washington by the Information Department of the Soviet Embassy last night, refuted charges made about Soviet behaviour in Iran, Poland and Afghanistan.

It also accused Washington of numerous belittling actions, including "distortion" of Soviet motives and "open interference" in Poland.

Explaining the State Department's reaction to the sudden and unprecedented Soviet move, a spokesman said that Washington considered "confidentiality essential to the conduct of diplomacy". He added that "for that reason" the State Department would not be releasing copies of the letter sent by Mr. Haig on January 24 to which the published letter from Mr. Gromyko was a reply.

None of the points contained in the Soviet Foreign Minister's letter were particularly new or unexpected.

But the decision by the Moscow authorities, who normally place great importance on confidentiality and secrecy to publish in full a diplomatic message from such a senior Soviet official was seen here as a sign of Russian deep concern about the present state of Soviet-American relations.

President Reagan and Mr. Haig have had harsh talks to say about Soviet behaviour since taking office last month.

In an introduction to the letter, the Soviet Embassy here said it was publishing the contents of Mr. Gromyko's letter sent on January 28 because the contents of the letter from Mr. Haig to Mr. Gromyko "has been made public by the United States side".

This statement was in fact untrue at the time it was made since no text of Mr. Haig's letter had by then appeared in the American press, although some newspapers had mentioned briefly the main points made by the new Secretary of State in his original communication.

After the publication of the Soviet letter, the State Department said it was "deeply concerned" by the "unusual step" taken by the Soviet Union.

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Poles asked for 90-day break from strikes

From Dossa Trevisan
Warsaw, Feb 12

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the new Polish Prime Minister, today called on Solidarity to give his Government three months of peace in which to sort out the most urgent problems.

He said the Government would use the time to engage in the broadest possible dialogue and was setting up a permanent commission for talks with the union. To reassure the union he appointed Mr. Mieczyslaw Rakowski, a new Deputy Prime Minister, and his deputy, Mr. Jozef Pleschinski, who is known for his liberal views, to head the commission.

General Jaruzelski reshuffled the Cabinet. Two of the six Deputy Prime Ministers were dismissed. Six new members were brought into the Cabinet, including a new Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Mieczyslaw Jagielski, the first Deputy Prime Minister, who negotiated last summer's agreement in Gdansk and enjoys the confidence of the workers, has retained his post and has been charged with economic affairs.

The Prime Minister's call for cooperation seems to have met with a response as the Solidarity national committee, which met under the chairmanship of Mr. Lech Walesa in Gdansk, indicated that while it

might not commit itself yet, it was ready to resume the dialogue.

General Jaruzelski's call for a 90-day moratorium on strikes seems to have been accepted as Solidarity announced that no strikes were being envisaged to support the Rural Solidarity's demands for legalization.

A strike of printers in Warsaw planned for tomorrow was called off.

There are signs that under the Prime Ministership of a career soldier, who commands great national respect, things are beginning to move in the right direction.

General Jaruzelski has proclaimed a 10-point programme which promises to play special attention to agriculture. He made it clear that he would try to reconcile demands for discipline and work with democratic openings towards all strata of society.

The Government, he said, would work for a socialist renewal, remove all people guilty of corruption and keep up high moral standards and honesty.

He left no doubt that the Government would resort to its "constitutional prerogative" to defend the social and political values of Poland as a socialist state.

The authorities, he said, had enough power to bar the way to those who wanted to turn back the "wheel of history" to destroy socialism and endanger Poland's alliances.

The country was threatened with "economic chaos and fratricidal conflict". These words do not come easily, he said, but he was fully aware of their weight and bitterness.

On issues concerning national destiny one could not remain silent. Every citizen was responsible, everyone must ask what he could do and what he should do to check the course of events.

The Solidarity national committee is also examining a call on local branches to refrain from any strikes before consultation and approval by the national committee.

The students in Lodz, who have been occupying the University for the past three weeks, and who have presented the Government with a list of demands including one to cut military service from two years to three months, yesterday issued an appeal to other universities to refrain from any action until the weekend. They hope to have reached an agreement by then.

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General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the new Polish Prime Minister, addressing the Warsaw parliament.

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Kremlin message expresses hope for firm line with Solidarity

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 12

President Brezhnev and Mr. Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, today sent congratulations to General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the new Polish Prime Minister, on his appointment, wishing him success in his "important activity" in strengthening the socialist gains of independence in Poland.

The telegram of congratulation, a normal courtesy sent to all new heads of government by the Soviet leadership, was used to express the Kremlin's hope that the fourth Polish Prime Minister within a year would be able to bring the situation in Poland under control and take a firm line against what the Soviet press has called the attempts to undermine communism in Poland.

The Soviet leaders said they expressed their confidence that the "cooperation and friendship between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic, based on the unbreakable principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, will develop and get

stronger for the benefit of the peoples of our fraternal countries and the cohesion of the socialist community, in the interests of peace and security in Europe."

The references to the "socialist community" and to the "interests of fraternal countries" in Polish affairs are a clear restatement of the so-called Brezhnev doctrine that the position of communism in an East European country was the clear concern of all its fellow members of the Warsaw Pact block.

The Russians have not commented further on General Jaruzelski's appointment and are not expected to. But there are clear signs that they are hopeful he will be firmer than his predecessor in standing up to the demands of Solidarity.

Meanwhile the Russians have taken the unusual step of publishing the text here of a letter sent by Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to Mr. Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, accusing the Americans of interfering in Poland's internal affairs and saying that no country, including both the United States and

the Soviet Union, had the right to interfere in Poland's affairs.

He says there are a number of matters over which it is desirable that his country and the United States should exchange views. But Poland was not among them.

The letter cannot in itself be considered a sharpening of Soviet accusations against the Americans. What is significant is that the Russians have published the text both here and in Washington.

Normally the Russians are extremely punctilious in matters of diplomatic protocol and are reluctant to engage in diplomacy through the media. But they clearly were angered by leaks in Washington of Mr. Haig's warnings to them over Poland and his earlier public accusations over Soviet behaviour around the globe.

Publication of the letter can therefore be taken as a sign that the Russians do not believe that open diplomacy is real diplomacy and that they now believe they have little hope of serious negotiation with the Americans and have nothing to lose by making public the text of their reply to Mr. Haig.

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Russians step up 'kidnap' campaign

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Feb 12

The Russians have intensified their protests and campaign against the decision of a Chicago court last year to grant political asylum to a 13-year-old Ukrainian boy, whose parents want him to return with them to the Soviet Union.

The case of the Polovchaks, the immigrant family whose son the Russians say has been "kidnapped" by the American authorities, is reported almost daily by the Tass news agency. On Wednesday night Soviet television broke into its main evening news bulletin to give the latest information on the legal wrangle.

Tass said yesterday that the family was being persecuted. The American authorities had removed Vladimir (known in America as Walter) from his parents' care to a secret location, and the parents were not being kept like hostages in Chicago.

According to Tass, Mr. Mikhail Polovchak, the father, yesterday telephoned the Soviet consulate in Washington to report that against his life, and save his wife, the only family breadwinner, was threatened with dismissal from her job because of her poor English.

The Russians maintain that the postponement of the appeal hearing, until next month, showed that the American judicial bodies were deliberating slow where the rights of Soviet citizens in the United States were concerned.

Last month when the American hostages returned from Iran, Tass said the Polovchak family was being equally mistreated, and detained in a "ridiculous" pretext that a 13-year-old boy had abandoned his parents and brother for a free enterprise in the "cosmos sphere". "All this could have evoked a smile were it not for the brief of the parents and the terrible fate of the child who life is being crippled and who is being doomed to orphanhood," Tass said.

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OVERSEAS

Turkey is prepared to withdraw from the Council of Europe

From Mario Modiano, Ankara, Feb. 12

The threat to expel Turkey from the Council of Europe is seen by the Ankara military regime as unjust and unfair, yet quite understandable. So understandable, in fact, that Turkey may soon pull out voluntarily from the European Parliamentary Assembly.

Mr. İsmet İnönü, the veteran career diplomat who took over the regime's Foreign Ministry, said: "The Council of Europe consists of freely and democratically elected governments which have an intrinsic stake in the return of parliamentary democracy in Turkey. We understand their concern."

The regime had told the Council of Europe of its "unshakable commitment" to ensure a speedy return to a parliamentary system in Turkey, but "there is sometimes in Strasbourg a lack of perception about what kind of activity would really promote democracy in Turkey, and which kind would be counter-productive," he said.

The truth is that the Turks do not like to be pushed. When they are, they tend to cut off their nose to spite their face. In the words of a western diplomat: "They are sensitive to rude things being said about them; but quite insensitive to the views expressed by outsiders as to what they must do."

The Foreign Minister told *The Times*: "We Turks have no doubt whatsoever that the military will restore democracy, and we are sure that effective democracy can be achieved—no go. But we find the concern of the Europeans quite legitimate. In fact, we welcome it."

European Assembly members were disturbed by events in Turkey for a variety of reasons, he said. "Some are motivated by ideology, others by domestic politics. Still others want to please their constituents, and there are those who see the chance to propel themselves into the limelight by posturing as defenders of democracy."

We respect all these motives, and we are not criticising them. But if they have a better chance to understand the Turkish position, they will be more understanding.

The Turkish Government has been reluctant to rely on the inevitable delay in the process of a move by the Council of Europe to expel a member—a general election, probably next year.

But after May, Turkey is put in a difficult position. By then the term for which its 12 parliamentary representatives had been elected in 1977 will have expired.

The Turkish regime takes a de facto sanguine view of relations with Western Europe on whom occupies this country relies to sustain its economy. It is a country which has been able to attract foreign investment and the flow of western money.

There is nothing to indicate that this change of government will affect the flow of western money.

East Africa
An accord on
Italian cooperation

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb. 12

Kenyan and Tanzanian delegations have met in Nairobi to discuss border security measures, and have agreed on closer consultation and cooperation to ensure the flow of trade and commerce.

The two teams, the Kenyan and Tanzanian, met in Nairobi after last month's summit meeting in Kampala. It was attended by the Presidents of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire.

Kenya has protested strongly against attacks on tourists in the border areas by armed gangs. In January, 22 tourists were killed in a shooting with a machine gun.

The border between the two countries was closed by Tanzania for several days, but the closure was lifted after the East African Community was formed.

The community was formed to promote economic cooperation and to defend itself against external threats. It is a step towards regional integration.

has affected negatively the opportunities for obtaining these funds. Mr. İnönü said Turkey hopes to receive \$525m credit this year.

However, Germany—Turkey's closest friend in Europe—is already showing reluctance to coordinate international aid this year. In Ankara, this is attributed to the fact that Herr Hans Egon Knoke, the Federal Finance Minister, is facing strong opposition from left-wing critics.

The Turkish Foreign Minister rejects any political motivation for Germany's reticence, and attributes it to the economic recession in that country. "I am confident, however," he added, "that Germany will, once again this year, take a direct interest in promoting greater aid to Turkey."

The Turkish regime, of course, now counts on greater support from the United States, not only because of the defence-oriented Republican Administration in Washington, but mainly because of the crisis in the Gulf and the Middle East, which enhance Turkey's strategic position.

Mr. İnönü said Ankara was seriously concerned by the situation in Afghanistan, and particularly by the Iran-Iraq war.

The fear that Asian destabilisation might spill over into Turkey's sensitive south-eastern provinces, is inducing the country to seek new allies among Islamic countries.

The military regime, in fact, looks to the more moderate Muslim nations, such as Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, not only as stabilizing factors in the Middle Eastern medley, but also as potential sources of oil and loans.

In this sense, and despite the inherent contradiction of Turkey's secularism and alignment, Islam is an ideal fallback position for the regime if the Europeans become too tough, and one that could hardly displease the Americans.

This adjustment, however, does not mean that the Turkish generals will increase their defensive commitment to the West. Particularly if such an increased role could cause misunderstandings among Ankara's Muslim friends.

The Foreign Minister said: "The crisis in this region does not change things. There is nothing in the North Atlantic Treaty that burdens Turkey with commitments outside the Nato area."

Asked if, in case of a blockade of the vital oil route from the Gulf, which would inevitably harm Nato's defence, Turkey would not feel involved, Mr. İnönü said: "It certainly would involve Turkey."

But it will also involve the countries of the area. Now, if Turkey takes a more active role, it is clearly stated in the Taff (Islamic Conference) summit—that the defence of the area is their own responsibility, we can hardly ignore this."

He concluded: "We have a very unique role to play in the region. So far the super-powers have observed a certain neutrality. But how long will this continue?"

Boat people
accused
of piracy

Bangkok, Feb. 12—Thailand is accusing 19 Vietnamese refugees of piracy, claiming that they captured a Thai fishing trawler and killed five of the crew in the Gulf of Thailand last December.

"I have just finished questioning the suspects," Major Praon Sirirattanakul of the police said in a telephone conversation yesterday. "They will be brought to trial."

The Vietnamese, he said, will be arraigned before a civilian criminal court in Nakhon Si Thammarat, 370 miles south of Bangkok. They face charges of assault causing death and stealing goods on the high seas. Conviction could mean the death sentence.

Western observers in Nakhon Si Thammarat province said the Vietnamese will try to launch countercharges against the Thai.

With \$2m (about \$230,000) of American support, Thailand last week started a training programme for Thai fishermen designed to teach them to defend themselves against the "boat people."

Thai authorities say five of their trawlers have been attacked by Vietnamese refugees, wielding knives and automatic rifles since December.

Mr. Vassilis Vitsaxis, the Greek Ambassador to Argentina, said a Chilean naval unit approached within 100 miles of the Chilean coast, but declined to comment on reports that the Navarino, under intimidation, had been forced to run up the Chilean colours. "I saw what everybody else saw," he said.

The generalist, the ministry said, was interviewed "prudent" in view of the poor Enzo Bont negotiations between

FOREIGN REPORT

Chief Justice Warren Burger says street crime is imposing "a reign of terror" on American cities.

"Like it or not we are approaching the status of an impotent society whose capability of maintaining elementary security on the streets, in the schools, and for the homes of our people is in doubt." The concerns he voiced are probably nowhere more deeply felt than in Los Angeles. Ivor Davis reports:

Lieutenant Earl Rice, chief detective in one of Los Angeles's worst crime areas, drinks his coffee black and does not mince his words: "There's more chance of dying by murder down here than by accident or natural death."

His territory covers only 10 square miles and makes in a population of 107,000, mostly black and Mexican Americans in south Los Angeles.

Lately, the increase in violent crimes has shocked residents in this city of three million people. Mr. Daryl Gates, the police chief, confirmed these fears last month by announcing that 1,021 people were murdered in the City of the Angels in 1980, an increase of 27 per cent over 1979.

But at Lieutenant Rice's bureau they view the sudden hysteria over the rocking murder rate with some cynicism. "Every weekend here people are routinely murdered in the streets and nobody takes any notice," Detective Bob Reynolds, of the homicide squad notes.

Rapes and murders are considered part of the lifestyle. There is a big double standard operating. The same homicides we have here daily are now appearing in west Los Angeles (a predominantly white, affluent area), he says.

South-east police headquarters is a red and grey brick building in the heart of the black ghetto that resembles the aftermath of an air raid. Shops are boarded up, rubble strewn on empty lots, graffiti on walls, houses abandoned. Compared to the meticulously tidiness of the rest of the city this wasteland. There are few people on the streets.

A recent Los Angeles Times poll reported that residents all over the city are worried more about crime than people in other American cities. "They have an inordinate fear of it that cuts across socio-economic boundaries."

Yet the poll noted that few homes had actually been touched. No so in the southern central section which is a ghetto in the real sense of the word. The only way out is by private car or an inadequate bus system. Unemployment hovers around 20 per cent; there are few local jobs because industry is loath to open new plants.

The jobs are the 40 per cent of the area's young blacks are out of work, aimlessly hang around the local housing estates or join street gangs. Schools do not attract top flight teachers and as a result the quality of education suffers.

Many residents live from week to week, and in fact, police note that robberies increase on the first and fifteenth of each month, on "Mother's Day" as they bitterly term the welfare pay-days.

When Los Angeles's much publicized 300-crime case last year ended in a ghetto for several days, they made 558 arrests but mostly on minor offences. "Most of the heavy guys just cooled it until the heat was off," one observer of the crime scene remarked.

I spent a couple of days recently with the division's major squad, Detective Diel is one of the eight-man homicide force trying to catch up with the backlog of murders. He has only been in the division a year but already has a caseload of 16 unsolved murders.

Mexicans, traditionally suspicious of "big brother" across their northern frontier, were nevertheless guardedly impressed when President Ronald Reagan made their country his first foreign port of call after his election.

The fact that Mr. Reagan sought the meeting at that particular time, in spite of his expressed unwillingness to meet other major world leaders, was clearly intended to demonstrate his recognition of Mexico's growing importance, economic and political.

The United States and Mexico have suffered all the stresses of an unhappy marriage. Economically, they are inextricably bound together, for the United States takes no less than two-thirds of Mexico's total exports. This dependency has long jarred on Mexican sensibilities.

Washington has not been particularly successful in appreciating this sensitivity in the past but the need to create a new relationship has now become an important object of American policy. Not only does the United States want more trade with Mexico, it recognizes the increasing influence in international affairs that the oil has bestowed on President Lopez Portillo and his Government.

Mr. Reagan has sought to establish a personal rapport with President Portillo. He is thought to have tried to allay Mexican fears that Washington's anti-communist stance might conflict with Mexico's growing role in regional and foreign affairs.

Mexicans were concerned by the recent declaration of the United Nations representative, Mrs. Jeanne Kirkpatrick, that a new United States-Latin American policy should be developed to resist communism in the face of Cuban and Nicaraguan "expansionism". She saw Mexico as a constraining

inviting target. That is far too partisan an approach to suit Mexico's ruling political group, the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The PRI, although its name has changed during the period, has been constantly in power since 1929. In every six-year election it has been returned with big majorities, partly due to alleged ballot rigging and partly due to restrictions on all sorts of opposition activity.

Both in domestic and foreign policies, the PRI has developed a mixture of socialist and capitalist concepts. The economy, too, is mixed and the oil industry is nationalized. Foreign policy, on the whole, has been "leftist" and "open" and non-interventionist in its relations with friendly states.

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In a Los Angeles bank a gunman already lies dead after an exchange of fire with the police. The siege began after he had taken 16 hostages. A miniature armoured car is called up, one more weapon in the fight against crime.

"We need twice the number of detectives to even make a dent in the cases," he says.

The station is a self-contained island of refuge. When officers leave they usually do so in twos and get into their cars immediately. They bring sandwiches for lunch to eat at their desks and seldom venture out to neighbourhood restaurants.

Outside it is considered a war zone and the police appear battle-scarred and weary. The fatigue shows on their faces. They are remarkably frank and many are disgusted by the conditions they have to work under.

During the two days I spent with the detectives the pace was hectic. It was little more than a mad dash, with little time for anything but the most essential. The jobs are the 40 per cent of the area's young blacks are out of work, aimlessly hang around the local housing estates or join street gangs. Schools do not attract top flight teachers and as a result the quality of education suffers.

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sent. You get the third-degree like you're on trial.

"Whenever there's a gang shooting they want witnesses—we get a guy who talks to us. We arrest a suspect and then the DA decides there is not enough evidence to hold him. Less than 24 hours later he is back on the streets and our witness is running scared. Try explaining a judicial decision like that to some kid in the ghetto who's terrified for his life."

They blame "soft" judges for the mounting street crime and complain that rough young street gang hoodlums are shipped off to holiday camp-like farms and released on parole too quickly.

They would like to see San Quentin's gas chamber back in business. "These people are not human," remarks Detective Reynolds, "all a murderer suspect has to say is 'I dropped some pills' or 'I was drinking' and it's diminished capacity. He gets at worst seven years for murder—and in three he is paroled."

Some detectives bemoan decaying morality and falling social standards and feel they are fighting a losing battle. And they scoff at the police department's million-dollar advertising campaign to refurbish the policeman's image.

To some, the troubles of the south-east division policeman might seem to have little to do with the rest of Los Angeles, being a function of a totally alien world. But more and more demarcation lines between the wastelands and the heart of one of the most affluent cities in the world is being blurred.

Ask those policemen in the division and they will tell you that the problems are nationwide. Crime is out of control, they say, and they look to what they perceive as a tough new conservative President to do something about it.

response to the Reagan trial balloon of a North American common market was cool. "A better policy," the Mexicans believe, is to diversify their exports; for which reason the have not permitted the oil-hungry United States to buy more than 70 per cent of their exports.

President Portillo has presided over an unprecedented economic growth during his four years in office. He was elected at a time of economic crisis—low investment, high unemployment and massive devaluation. He has restored growth and has controlled the economy in spite of world recession and explosive demographic growth at home.

In the last 10 years, the population grew by no less than 15 million to its present total of 67.4 million. The lot of all income groups has improved, but the spectacular growth has been for the top 10 per cent; the rich have become far richer while the lot of the poor has been relatively small.

On the other hand, the boom economy has brought new inflation, now standing unofficially at 35 per cent. Unemployment, which is officially quoted as 20 per cent, is thought to be between 40-50 per cent—and there are no unemployment benefits in Mexico's social security system. The unemployed—mostly the young—live on their families, by selling lottery tickets, or by working as shoe-shine boys; or they emigrate illegally into the United States, providing another bone of contention with

in such a situation, it is remarkable that the Communist Party (PNC) is not more powerful than it is. The party—like the five other minority political parties—is limited in its parliamentary representation by the dominance of the PRI. But although the Communist Party is quantitatively insignificant, its party is influential in Mexican national life. It is a well-organized group, attracting a sizeable number of the intelligentsia; it is powerful in some minority trade unions; and its published literature presents ideas and criticisms which are reflected in the daily press. As part of its policy of "balance", President Portillo's PRI does not ignore the communists and frequently enters into "dialogue" with them.

An off-kick state yet with widespread poverty and endemic corruption from top to bottom of the political system, Mexico is stable only by comparison with the volatility of its communist neighbours. Such stability as it does possess owes much to the powers of the President. For the six years he holds office (he is not permitted a second term), the President of Mexico moves into a position of supreme authority without any of the checks and balances of the United States constitution.

President Lopez Portillo, a former professor of international law, has grown in stature and popularity and authority. During his last two years of office, he is likely to prove a "cooperative" albeit wary colleague for President Reagan.

William Frankel

Saudi weapons deal presents moral dilemma for Bonn

West Germany, tempted by the prospect of a huge weapons deal with Saudi Arabia, is engaged in an agonising debate over the ethics of arms exports.

A request of such magnitude from the biggest, richest and strategically most important oil producer would have created a few problems for West Germany. But it has plunged the West Germans into a painful conflict of interests, loyalties and principles.

Strong resistance, particularly in the Social Democratic Party (SPD), has added to the strains in the SPD-Free Democratic coalition and may wreck the deal. Objections have been raised in many quarters, including both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches and the trade unions, to any relaxing of West Germany's restrictions on arms exports.

The problem arose when Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, was approached by Saudi leaders with a request—not an order—for West Germany's most sophisticated and deadly combat vehicles: the Leopard II tanks, Gepard anti-aircraft tanks, Merkur combat vehicles, and other weapons.

The advantages to West Germany of such a deal, politically, economically and strategically, are enormous. But the Government's self-imposed restrictions in the war years are still in force.

Ten years ago the cabinet agreed to ban all exports of arms to "areas of tension". Exports to other non-Nato and non-Western countries could be permitted only if there were "special considerations".

Memories of the war were still vivid and the Government was not inclined to let Germany become a big arms producer again.

Now, Herr Schmidt argues, it is time the rules were revised. Experience has shown, he told the Bundestag, that it is difficult to define an "area of tension".

Moreover, international co-operation on arms development is undermining the rules. A weapon produced with, say, French, can be freely sold by other partners.

The Chancellor insists that arms exports should still be firmly restricted. But he would like the basic consideration to be what is in the national interest.

He has made it clear that he

feels the Saudi deal is very much in the national interest. Saudi Arabia is the world's and Germany's biggest oil supplier and creditor. Such a deal could help redress the huge balance of trade with Riyadh.

Whether or not it is in an area of tension—Herr Schmidt argues that it is not—the deal is a "prime factor for stability" in the Gulf area and should be supported, Herr Schmidt says.

West Germany has already decided it cannot, on principle, send soldiers or warships to the Gulf. But West German weapons could be an important contribution to a general Western effort to preserve stability in the area.

The Government has started looking at ways of changing the rules. There is no hurry, the Chancellor says. Apart from the work involved, he appears to want time to let emotions cool and his arguments sink in.

But he will not easily get his way. Not only is his party's much-vaunted left-wing against it—they oppose arms exports on principle—but the right-wing is also alarmed at a deal which could ultimately damage Israel. There is also opposition in the ranks of the Free Democrats.

For the issue touches on another sensitive area from Germany's past—the moral obligations towards Israel. Mr. Menzies, the German Minister, said that the deal was "unacceptable" that Germany should now sell deadly weapons to enemies of the Jewish state.

Mr. Shimon Peres, the leader of the Israeli Labour Party, has said that if Bonn sells weapons to Saudi Arabia, Israel will ask for them too. His remarks underlined another worry of the deal's opponents—that if West Germany exports arms to one side in a tense situation it could be obliged to do the same to the other.

The concept of "national interest" could get very widely stretched. If the Government gave its permission the arms industry would make a financial killing. Germany's weapons are among the best in the world, and foreign governments are pressing for tanks, ships and guns which they admire but often cannot have.

Patricia Clough

President Reagan sets out to woo the wary Mexicans

Mexicans, traditionally suspicious of "big brother" across their northern frontier, were nevertheless guardedly impressed when President Ronald Reagan made their country his first foreign port of call after his election.

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We're currently working on 389 cancer projects. Help.

We mean it. Our work needs help—it must be helped if it is to continue. That is because our work, exclusively, cancer research.

No search is more vital, few are as complex, and with each of our many projects our scientists are bringing more and more of the needed knowledge into focus. Yet for this we receive no official grant, no government backing; we pay our own way entirely.

So we have to find the money ourselves. Money for the fundamental research into the causes and prevention of cancer that the medical profession must have before it can begin to talk of bringing cancer under check.

Our history is simple. We were established by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Royal College of Physicians of London, so that we could add to the world's scientific knowledge of cancer.

This we have done since the turn of the century—this we do today on a vastly greater scale, and with ever-growing expectation of contributing to success. Now, as we probe deeper and deeper to find the knowledge the world needs, there is an ever greater cost to be met. This is one of the urgent problems we still have to solve, and it is the one that you can help with, today.

The full understanding of cancer is the key to its prevention and cure. Therefore, sending your donation of £10 to help continue the work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Name _____ Address _____

Send no money now! Please send your donation to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 71, Grafton Way, London W14 9NS.

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Mr Paisley named by Speaker and then suspended for calling Ulster Secretary a liar

House of Commons
The Rev Ian Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) was suspended from the service of the House after refusing an order from the Speaker to withdraw a remark describing Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as a liar.

The incident occurred during questions on the security situation in Northern Ireland. Mr Paisley had asked Mr Atkins: Would the Secretary of State care to confirm or deny that the army patrol that was to observe Tyrone Abbey was refused an order from the Speaker to withdraw a remark describing Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as a liar.

Mr Atkins (Southampton, C): I never give details in this House of the security forces' operations as he knows. I cannot understand why he thinks it is in the interests of anybody to make charges like this. (Cheers.)

Mr Paisley: It's a cover-up. (Interjections.)

Mr Gerard Fitt (Belfast, West, Soc): Mr Paisley has just called Mr Atkins a liar.

Mr Paisley: So he is.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas): Did the honourable gentleman make that statement in the House?

Mr Paisley: Yes, I made that statement for it is true. (Protests.)

Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, Dem U): He is a liar.

The Speaker: Mr Paisley knows he must withdraw the remark at once.

Mr Paisley: I have no intention of withdrawing the truth. (Protests.)

The Speaker: I name the Rev Ian Paisley for gross discourtesy to the Chair. I call upon the minister to move the appropriate motion.

Mr Robinson: He is telling the truth. The Secretary of State is a liar.

Mr Michael Jopling, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury and Government Chief Whip: I beg to move that Mr Paisley be suspended from the service of the House.

The Speaker put the question that Mr Paisley be suspended from the service of the House.

There was a loud cry of "Aye" from all parts of the House. Mr Paisley and Mr Robinson cried "No".

Division was called but when Mr Robinson was shown to be the only teller for the Noes, it was called off and the Speaker declared the motion carried.

The Speaker instructed the hon member to leave the chamber.

Mr Paisley immediately did so.

In the questions leading up to the incident Mr Atkins said that since he last answered questions in the House since he last died as a result of terrorist violence. Since the full at the time of the prison hunger strike, terrorist organisations and clearly recognised their activities but they had continued to suffer reverses.

Mr Atkins: I do not know the names of any criminals. If I did I would inform the security forces. I have no doubt there are strong reasons why they should be kept in custody and that evidence will be produced so that the guilty can be convicted.

Mr Atkins: I cannot give the details he asks for without notice. The first police car was rammed by the terrorists, when they were attempting to escape. An exchange of fire followed. Unhappily the terrorist manager to make their escape. One hopes the RUC are doing their best to be so fortunate.

At this point Mr Paisley asked his question following which he was named and suspended.

Mr James McCusker (Armagh, Off U): The attack on the RUC was one of the most serious in the history of the RUC. It was a deliberate attempt to kill the men involved in the killing of my constituents, including Sir Norman Stronge. It is known not only to the RUC but also to Government Ministers on both sides of the border.

It is a deplorable situation that all my constituents can now do is wait until they kill someone else.

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Backing for stand on exclusive fishing limit

Ministers are to have talks with leaders of the fishing industry next Tuesday to hear from them an analysis of the financial position of the industry and any constructive suggestions they wish to make. Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement.

He was reporting on his three days of talks in Brussels with other fisheries ministers of the European Community.

Mr Walker (Worcester, C) said: In spite of intensive and sustained negotiations, the Council of Ministers failed to reach agreement on a revised common fisheries policy. Discussions will be resumed on March 9 and 10.

In the course of the three days' talks, Ministers were able to have discussions with representatives of the industry on the problems which they are currently experiencing.

The Government has already announced its decision to bring forward the review of the fishing industry's financial position. The Government has now fixed a meeting with the industry for next Tuesday.

The object of the meeting will be to receive from the industry an analysis of their current financial position and to discuss any constructive suggestions they wish to make. The analysis and the suggestions will then be urgently considered by the Government.

It also discussed the adverse effects of cheap fish imports and it has been agreed that a team of industry representatives and Government officials will immediately examine all allegations of illegal and unfair imports of fish.

During the Council meeting, we have the opportunity to discuss the Commission the fact that the system operating to prevent cheap imports entering our market from third countries was not working effectively. We have obtained a letter undertaking from the Commission that he will urgently examine the problem in order to make the system more effective.

Mr Roy Mason, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture and fisheries (Barnes, Lab): Mr Walker will continue to get our backing as long as he stands firm in the Council of Ministers for British fisheries proposals as agreed by all the industry and this House.

It would appear that some progress is being made, especially on conservation, inspection and total allowable catches. In spite of French intransigence he must still stand firm on two of the cardinal points—the 12-mile exclusive belt and our 13-month preference up to 50 miles.

He was right to hold up the agreement with the German and the Danes with the Faroes and the French fishing up to our beaches until we have managed to obtain a satisfactory package.

What proposals were put forward on financial aid by the Common Market? What action has he in mind to stop cheap fish imports now?

Will all sections of the industry be represented on the committee of inquiry?

It is this further delay on the common fisheries policy that we expect a statement on financial aid for the industry next week?

Mr Walker: I am grateful for Mr Mason's comments. I am glad to have the industry's views on the common fisheries policy. I am glad to have the industry's views on the common fisheries policy.

Mr Butler: There will be no more selective assistance given to the project. The company is well aware of it.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, Con Dem): No steps were taken by the Department of Industry to save the MG. Those who watched that with dismay, Mr Butler, are now being asked to support a project which will cost the Government £10 million.

Mr Butler: The decision to start the project was taken by the previous Government. We were faced with a year with an approach for the project. It has been approached again and I have explained what our practice has been in the past.

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Ulster car firm told no more public funds are available

The Government has made clear to the De Lorean car company of Ulster that sufficient provision of public funds had been made to the company and that no more public funds are available for any further funding.

Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State for Northern Ireland (Bosworth, Con Dem), said in a statement that he had agreed in principle to provide a time-limited guarantee for commercial loans of up to £10m to the company.

The statement of the Secretary of State, Mr Humphrey Atkins, had been made in August 1980, that the Government's obligation to consider applications for further financial assistance for the De Lorean car company had been charged, he had decided to consider a further application from the company.

Mr Butler: I considered a further application for a £10m loan to the De Lorean car company. I have now agreed in principle to provide a time-limited guarantee for commercial loans of up to £10m to the company.

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Mr Butler: I considered a further application

Team to stir The Valley's echoes



Hales: uses experience to take the pressure off a suspect **Charlton defence.**

High-scoring forward from the backwoods

the day doesn't pass us by", he said. "If we freeze we'll get slaughtered."

Nicholas Harling

Rugby League

feats men

Billiards
MARGATE: 1281 Super Crystalite UK
championship: Semi-final round
Karnopp (Palmer Green) beat
Barrie 4-1 (3-0, 1-0, 4).

LAHTI (Finland) World champion-
ship: 20km event 1. H. Niska (Fin-
land) 1:13.00m Time no penalty;
2. F. Ullerich (EG) 1:14.00 (Germ);
3. E. Antila (Finland) 1:14.31
(Swed); 4. M. Jung (EG) 1:15.18
(Germ); 5. F. Fischer (W.G.) 1:15.31
(Germ); 6. A. Alayev (USSR)
1:15.36 (2min).

1

Drumburn represents the only serious threat to Broadsword

1245 Mr. Buck, 1:15. Fragments: 1.
is specially recommended, 245 H.

5. Poker Player. 2.15 RABBY GOLD
 1st. Feb. 3.15 Gashmaria.

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Geoffrey Smith

Can the Liberals patch an alliance?

'One of the curious features of the Liberal Party is that it has so many members who are not really interested in power'

The social democrats would not run where there is a Liberal MP and in the marginal seats where the Liberal came a good second.

But what are the prospects for such an arrangement in practice? One of the curious features of the Liberal Party is that it has so many members who are not really interested in power. Politics is either their form of public service or a rather agreeable activity to be conducted with like-minded people. There are others who are interested in power but only at local level. Liberals in these categories will not easily be induced to back a social democrat in their own constituencies so that the Liberal Party at Westminster will stand a better chance of gaining office.

None the less, opinion within the party has been moved by the thrill of recent polls. Attitudes vary in different parts of the country—probably most hostile to a pact in Yorkshire, more favourable in the South, though with London a possible exception. The general trend is towards more favourability towards Mr. Steel's chances of securing his cherished objective of an electoral agreement. But many a Liberal would display his prickles once again if the social democrats were suddenly to announce that they would contest a majority of seats at the next election, or if—which is not expected—they were to put up candidates for the county council elections in May, when the Liberals expect to do rather well.

Even if these perils are avoided there

is not the slightest chance of a detailed plan being agreed at national level. Determining which seats each party will contest, local autonomy in the Liberal Party is too strong for that. Much will depend on personalities and on where the Liberals already have a candidate in the field: at the latest count they have 234 and the number is increasing all the time. The most that can be expected is for the conditions to be created centrally that will encourage local deals to be done.

This limited objective would still require a somewhat complex courtship. There is no thought of fighting the election on a common manifesto, but Mr. Steel enumerated last week five policy priorities which the social democrats would have to accept. These would be incorporated in a declaration of intent that would have to be agreed before the summer recess if it was to be put to the Liberal conference in the autumn.

At this conference Mr. Steel will not put his leadership on the line: he has promised his parliamentary colleagues that he will not do so. He will have to rely on his powers of persuasion to get the declaration approved. But he has been remarkably successful up to now in dragging his party along the course that he has set and he is likely to have this support, or at least acquiescence, of the rest of the parliamentary party.

The chances are that he will once again get the backing of the conference,

but that will depend quite a bit on how much genuine cooperation there has been with the social democrats in the meantime. They are not likely to choke on any of Mr. Steel's policy priorities, which most of them seem to believe in as much as he does. But it is hoped that the declaration would also contain a commitment to campaign on each other's platforms in the election. Liberals will also be much influenced by whether the social democrats work together with them in Parliament once they have made the break from Labour.

In other words, the Liberals will be looking for evidence of a close working partnership which might bring about the realignment of British politics for nearly 20 years. But they are wary of simply acting as the midwife at the birth of a new Labour party. So they become suspicious every time they hear a social democrat claim to be the true inheritor of the Labour tradition.

This is understandable from the Liberal point of view, but it does not take account of the social democratic dilemma. How are they to keep the support of a good many traditional Labour supporters while breaking away from the party? If the social democrats cannot do that they will be politically dead, no matter how well they get on with the Liberals. If an alliance is to be formed, therefore, it must rest not only on policy agreement, which should not be too difficult, but also upon trust and tact, which may prove more elusive.

An alliance should suit both sides. The chances are that something will be put together, probably not so much a pact as a patchwork quilt, more impressive in some places than in others. But how much comes of it will depend on how each side responds to the key question with which it is presented: are the Liberals serious in the pursuit of power, with all the compromises that that must entail? And do the social democrats want the Liberals as more than an electoral convenience?

That old Titanic sinking feeling

New words and new meanings: an occasional series by Philip Howard

What with one thing and another, this may not be the most diplomatic moment to bring up the subject of the Titanic at the birth of a new Labour party. But I think that there is evidence that our popular modern metaphor about the Titanic as the unsinkable ship that did the unthinkable has a hole below the water-line. I can find no contemporary evidence that the Titanic was regarded as virtually unsinkable until after she had sunk. With hindsight we have created the myth because it makes a more dramatic metaphor. We now potently and powerfully believe that the Titanic was hailed as unsinkable and the subject of much ballyhoo to that effect before her maiden and fatal voyage.

If so, one might ask why the Olympic did not have similar heartening claims made for it. She was almost identical to the Titanic, and had been in service for 10 months before the Titanic's maiden voyage. The Times, reporting the launch of the Olympic on December 10, 1910, said: "The ship is almost identical to the Titanic, and had been in service for 10 months before the Titanic's maiden voyage. The Times, reporting the launch of the Olympic on December 10, 1910, said: "The ship is almost identical to the Titanic, and had been in service for 10 months before the Titanic's maiden voyage. The Times, reporting the launch of the Olympic on December 10, 1910, said: "The ship is almost identical to the Titanic, and had been in service for 10 months before the Titanic's maiden voyage."

The launch of the Titanic, at that time the largest ship in the world, was reported in The Times on June 1, 1911. We remarked that she would be heavier than the Olympic when fitted out; but, being lighter at launch, she caused a small wave. When she was launched from Southampton on April 10, 1912, little attention was paid or comment made, other than short pieces about the luxury of the accommodation, the attractiveness of the sports facilities, and so on. Nobody was writing about unsinkability. There is a typical and, with hindsight, ironic example at the end of the leader in The Manchester Guardian of April 12. It is writing about the new arrangement of the promenade deck: "On the upper deck, we can look through the windows and safely sheltered from contact with the outer air obtain a full view of the sea, so much appreciated by passengers. Let us be grateful for that provision."

Only after the underwater spur of ice (from an iceberg that had probably recently overturned and was showing dark sides) was to wind a swell to create ripples round it had ripped 300 feet out of the Titanic's starboard side, did the press start to write about invulnerability. The word unsinkable occurs for the first time in a leader in The Times a day after the disaster. The owners had done their best to make this sort of ship unsinkable.

After the Titanic had gone down, the press and the inquiries resurrected the fact that she had been built higher than required by regulations then or now, with watertight compartments, as so on. There was also much resentment aroused by reports that greater efforts had been made to save the lives of the first-class passengers. The Daily Herald claimed that 61 per cent of first-class passengers had been rescued, against 36 per cent second class and 23 per cent third class.

The pathos and horror of the disaster at once turned the Titanic into a dramatic metaphor for disastrous pretensions. The metaphor may seem like, we changing deckchairs on the Titanic. But it was only after the Titanic sank that we started to see her as virtually unsinkable.

Dan van der Vat

Humanizing the tower office block

An artist's impression of the new Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation headquarters.

The new headquarters for the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, revealed yesterday, will, when complete, be one of the world's most interesting (and possibly most expensive) commercial developments. As far as the bank is concerned the interest lies in the fact that their building will have a more efficient use of space than anything comparable.

The architects, Foster Associates, are British and won this gigantic commission in international competition against six other architectural firms, and the prime interest is to see what Foster is up to now (in these post-Sainsbury Centre days when everything has pediments in glass-reinforced plastic) and whether he has succeeded in his stated aim to "humanize the tower office block".

It is clear from the plans and models that the building is a development of the mainstream strand of high-tech architecture. That is to say that all techniques—whether industrial or constructional—are to be used to create the optimum building interior, and that the exterior will be the result of that. Being Foster the result will be good—a 41-storey tower of much greater interest and vitality than one normally gets in buildings of that scale.

What we shall not be getting is any truck with the current trend of misused post-modernism wherein it is believed that the exterior of a building has an independent existence and should be designed accordingly.

The building has three main elements: a structure of eight, huge four-legged steel pylons like something out of War of the Worlds; the office and banking accommodation, mainly glassed, which are slung between them, with horizontal blinds giving a screen-like effect; and the service towers, which include staircases and lifts shafts, some of which will be clad in glass.

Still me, M, how did your chaps keep awake when they phone-tapped the Canadians?



It may sound muddled but the whole is an ordered vision. The useable space is at the centre, supported by steel pylons, while the lifts and services run up the outside. The building has many similarities with the Pompidou centre in Paris in the way it is organized. But whereas the Pompidou services are covered in wood the Hongkong services are dressed in the height of architectural chic.

The building will face the main ferry landing in Hong Kong, and thus be at the heart of the main commuter rush. The architects have devised one of the niftiest ways of attracting customers to a bank known to man as elevating the principal banking hall to the first floor, to allow the commuters to scurry underneath from the ferry wharf to their offices. At the centre of the building is an atrium eight storeys high, glazed at each end. It is thus a very large space, but without the variety of space of the American atria in John Foreman's hotel complexes.

At intervals throughout the building's height there are major double height reception areas. These have double banks of escalators and those who are familiar with Foster's development for Willis and Faver in Ipswich will appreciate the concept. What is different here is that in addition to these double height escalators, escalators are provided throughout the building. Instead of lifts being made the sole form of travel, they are instead limited to fast commuter travel—debouching at these four receptions.

Staff and visitors are then directed to complete their journeys on these escalators. There seems to be evidence that this system gives a better security use of floor area and a far better social environment.

At various stages the building is stepped back to provide the necessary light angles for neighbouring buildings. Thus what begins as a three-bay building on the ground, has become a one-bay building by the time it reaches the helicopter pad at the apex.

The development size is more than one million square feet; its cost could reach hundreds of millions of pounds by the time it is fitted out with all necessary machinery. Despite the programme is to have the building finished within four years.

Foster and his team must be congratulated for this splendid competition success, and his determination not simply to put up another block. It should be noted that the British architects are also winning overseas competitions; James Stirling in Germany and America; Darbourne and Darke in Germany and Italy.

What can possibly have gone so badly wrong with this country that our best architectural talent has to go abroad to find competitions to win and buildings to build?

Charles McKean
Architectural Correspondent

Refloating a lost piece of Tudor history

The most ambitious and exciting project of its kind in the history of marine archaeology has passed the point of no return this month with the final decision to raise Henry VIII's flagship from the seabed and bring her ashore next year.

The Mary Rose, built in 1510 and enlarged in 1536, sank during a brush with the French in the Solent in 1545. The mud on which she has rested at an angle of 60 degrees ever since has preserved not only most of the hull in unprecedentedly good condition but also immense quantities of the personal effects of the 700 sailors and soldiers, nearly all of whom were down when the wreck was discovered in 1971.

The discovery of the wreck in 1971 has proved to be an archaeological opportunity unique in both quality and quantity. It offers an unparalleled chance to find out about the way of life in England in the middle of the sixteenth century, including details of diet, clothing, craftsmanship, work, leisure and weaponry.

So in 1978 the Mary Rose Trust was formed with the aim of clearing the silt from the wreck, bringing up all manner of artefacts and then lifting the hull bodily and bringing it ashore by pontoon and ramp to form the centrepiece of a museum to be built for the purpose.

The President of the Trust is Prince Charles who will be guest of honour at a reception in London on Tuesday to help raise the balance of the £3m needed to bring the ship ashore, and put a roof over it. The prince has been the most enthusiastic supporter of the project, and his presence is a great help in raising the hundreds of thousands in diving on the wreck to see it for himself.

This month's decision to go ahead with less than half the money raised is a bold one but the results produced by the Trust's staff so far are already enough to justify the effort. They can be seen in an old bonded store in Portsmouth, now converted into offices and workshops full of

water-tanks, cisterns, bathtubs and polythene parcels.

The Mary Rose may be a very old ship, but the methods in use to salvage the history she encapsulates are impressively modern. The technique of freeze-drying, for example, used to preserve relics is adapted from the latest instant-food technology. Delicate medical instruments have been used to probe cavities never dreamed of by their inventors, including the bowels of cannon.

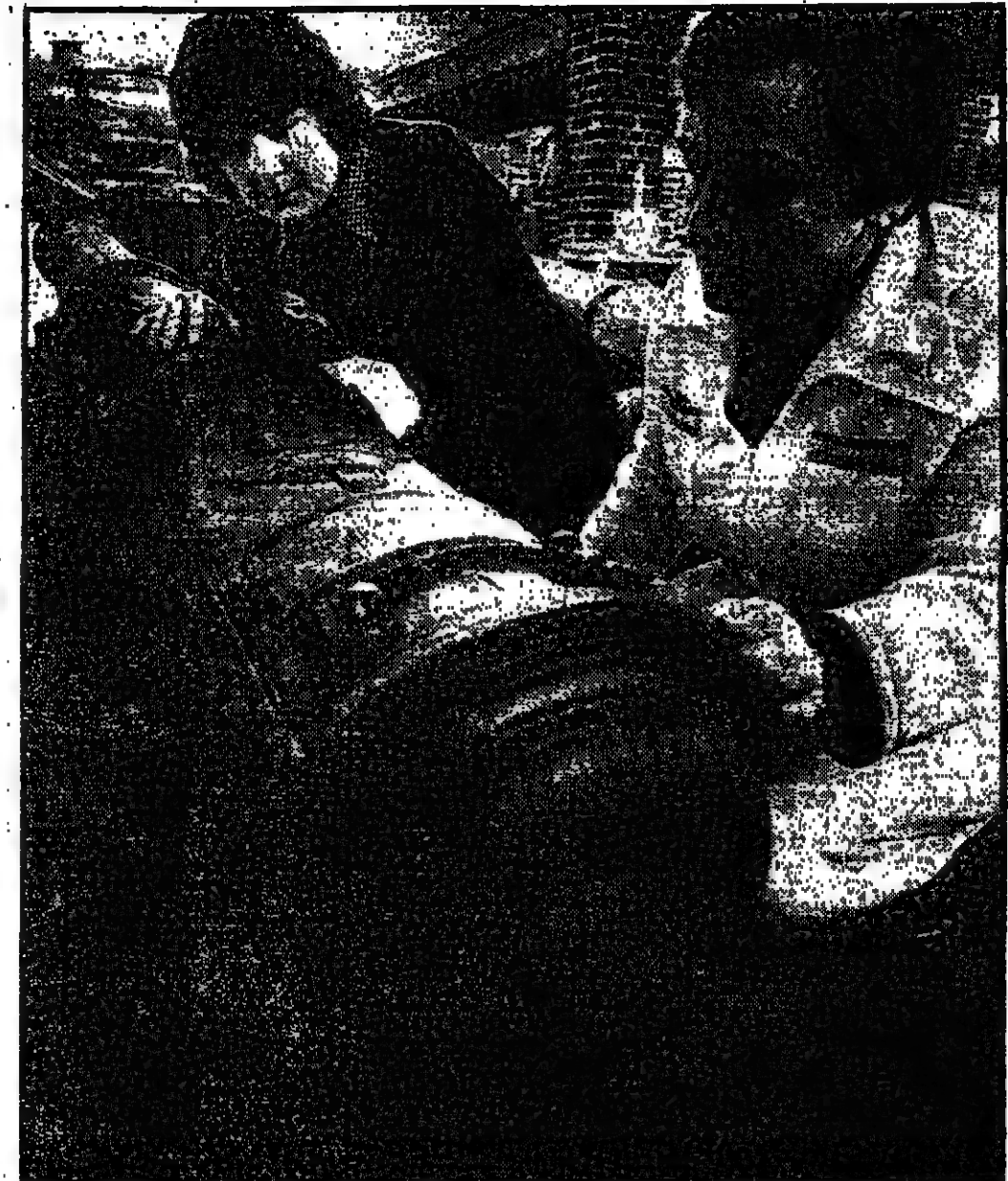
The 23 full-time staff are enthusiasts to a man and woman. The principal fundraiser and financial controller, for instance, threw up a successful (and much better paid) career as a senior executive at Marks and Spencer.

He is Mr Ian Dahl, who at 36 is coming as close as he ever will to his frustrated youthful ambition of being a naval officer by finding the sinews of war for this unique salvage operation. "I could not join the Navy because I am colour-blind and short-sighted," he said. "Even after 14 years in a good career with a very good employer, I jumped at the chance to come here and moved in a couple of weeks."

In six months in the job, Mr Dahl has succeeded in finding American financial support, and his next target is Europe. Already his horizons extend beyond the greatest project of his kind to the defence of the Realm—museum consisting of exhibitions all over the Portsmouth area, including not only the Mary Rose and HMS Victory but many other historic ships and naval relics.

The archaeological director is Mrs Margaret Rule, aged 50. She estimates that she has now made up to 800 dives on the wreck as part of her work of recovering the ship's relics. Underwater you get a complete social cross-section which you don't normally get on a land site.

The remains of cockroaches, snails, seeds of food tell you a lot about what they used to eat in those days.



Mrs Margaret Rule and Deborah Fulford examine a bronze cannon from the Mary Rose.

The Mary Rose is not so much a time-capsule as a frozen moment of history. Everything we have brought up so far comes from the upper levels of the wreck; it is entirely possible that we may even come across documents, which would be a fantastic find.

Chests containing clothes in remarkable condition had already been found and there was no reason why there should not be more such recoveries. The recovery programme may be slowed down far from breaking valuable items.

The Mary Rose is important not merely because of her state of preservation but also because she represents a watershed in naval strategy. She was one of the very first ships built as a warship, and also one of the first capable of firing broadsides. With her lines of cannon below deck she is an early ancestor of the ship of the line and thus of her future near-neighbour, HMS Victory.

She sank a mile offshore within sight of Henry VIII, probably as the result of a design fault. It is thought likely that her gun-ports were open and that she shipped a fatal quantity of water through them as she heeled over while manoeuvring against the French, whose claim to have

sunk her by gunfire is natural but dubious.

Her original displacement was 600 tons, remarkable in itself for the period, but she reached 700 tons after conversions. She had a mixed armament of 91 guns and a normal complement of 415 men, including 185 archers and pikemen. On July 19, 1545, she was the flagship of Vice-Admiral Sir George Carew, commanded by Captain Roger Grenville, and is thought to have had 700 aboard when she went down. Many of them will have been found by the time she comes up again to make a naval exhibit unique in the world.

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MOSCOW DIARY

My office phone rings. "Is that the newspaper Times? A voice asks rather guardedly. I say it is. "I have to talk to you. I have something very important to say. We must meet." I demur and ask what he would like to talk about. "I cannot tell you now, but it is vital your readers know about this. Where will you meet me?"

There seems to be no escape. Okay then, I reply. I will be down on the street outside a certain shop at about 12.00. I am tall and will be wearing a brown coat.

It looks like being yet another wild goose chase. I go down to the street, and there is a young man in jeans with a fur hat, padded coat and the inevitable battered briefcase, standing looking around. After exchanging glances once or twice he comes up and asks if I am the correspondent he is waiting for, and then as we walk round the block he starts his story.

Thus begin dozens of sad accounts of personal tragedy, injustice and bureaucratic bloody-mindedness. The person in question has typically com-

plained about some unfairness at work, quarrelled with his boss, created a scandal or tried to organise a petition and then lost his job. He has carried on with his campaign, and has been warned by the KGB to drop the matter. He has refused, and has been told he will not get another job. So he resolves to emigrate, only to find that the visa office will not consider his application.

In the end he decides to seek out a western correspondent and tell him all about it, with a sheaf of documents to prove his point. "I know you people are interested in dissidents and can help them," is the usual line.

I find these cases disturbing because they are based on a fundamental misunderstanding of the job of western correspondents in Moscow. We are not here as campaigners for any cause, good or bad. Dissidents are not *per se* of interest. Not everyone who has suffered some injustice needs to have his story related in the western press. There is no time, and frequently the case does not illustrate any important point about the Soviet Union—other than that the

system is inflexible and vengeful to those who attempt to challenge it.

Finally, of course, there is nothing usually a western correspondent can do: he cannot lobby embassies, take letters, act as an intermediary or confront the authorities with the case.

He can, of course, write about it, and the authorities in recent years have hesitated to act against people whose names and aims are widely familiar in the West. But publicity is not necessarily a protection, especially for people whose misfortunes do not represent any principle arousing concern in the West. It illustrates questions of principle.

Soviet citizens who call up western correspondents are either very brave or very naive. Almost every Russian is convinced, with good reason, that the phones are tapped. It is a mystery where they get the number: no telephone book has been published in Moscow for years, and the rare copies of the official list of Moscow's offices and business numbers do not list embassies or foreigners' numbers. You

will not be told such numbers if you ask someone enquiries or at the public information kiosks.

There is one old man who phones me regularly—usually at eight on a Sunday morning, bless him—to talk about his troubles. He was once a children's writer, and is much concerned that his stories have not been published abroad. Now and then he wants to know whether you could find him a publisher, but his usual complaints are about his neighbours, his flat, his unanswered petitions to Brezhnev and the central committee, his illnesses and so on. You can lay the recorder down, make yourself a cup of coffee, and return to find him still talking. One colleague punched an entire story on the telex without the old man drawing breath.

Another man, a former architect and restorer, has phoned virtually every correspondent in Moscow, and it is only after we have compared notes that we have found his initially plausible and interesting accounts of the persecution of the Tolstoy Vegetarian Foundation, the restoration of the Armenian "embassy" in

Moscow, or the saga of the Bolshoi Theatre are less reliable than they appear.

Some of those I have met are frankly odd. "I was a KGB agent," a big man with a beard once said, beginning his history, and he told me about all the people he had been required to make love to during the course of his duties. Every so often we had to make a detour to avoid a large building where he believed microphones were installed in the outside walls.

You invariably have to meet those who phone on the street. Police guard the entrance way to every block where foreigners live, and any Soviet citizen who wanders in without an official invitation will be stopped and asked his business.

But meeting unknown people has its problems. One man told me he was short, wearing jeans and a cap in carrying a case. I went down to the appointed trysting place, to see his figure disappearing into the shop. I followed, sidled up to him and asked: "You phoned me?" He gave a look of horror and astonishment and quickly

backed away. I went out of the shop, and there was another short man wearing jeans and a cap and carrying a case.

One colleague who promised to pass on a copy of some newspaper article agreed to meet a man in a brown coat carrying a newspaper in 15 minutes. He went down and gave the article to the grateful caller. Some months later he was introduced to a man who said he was the one who had called, and he had waited for a long time in vain for the journalist. Somebody else, it appeared, had overheard the arrangement and had been quicker off the mark.

Not all those who call up are cranks. Some have genuinely sad stories to tell—the translator and broadcaster from Moldavia, for example, who was sacked when his parents became Jehovah's Witnesses, and was told he would never be given a job again as long as his parents were alive. He was given an exit visa to Romania, where he had relations, but the Romanians would not accept him. He then applied to go to a west European country, but this time the Soviet authorities would not give him a visa.

"What am I to do," he asked despairingly, "kill my parents?" He came all the way to Moscow to seek help, and threatened to storm into the American embassy and stay there until allowed out. It took a lot of talking to persuade him that this would be fruitless, and the only thing to do was to persist in his application.

Recognising those who have a publishable story to tell can be difficult. Usually it turns out that the man simply wants his name in the newspapers, thinking that this will help him emigrate. Two men came to a Western news agency last year, and one insisted that his companion had tried to reveal a colossal scandal in the Black Sea resort of Sochi involving top party officials, for which he had been dismissed and then threatened. Six months later a Soviet newspaper broke the sensational story that the mayor of Sochi and his associates had been jailed for 13 years for corruption.

One problem is that Russians have no conception of how the Western press operates, imagining it simply to be the reverse image of their own.

Michael Binyo

CHINA

China has entered 1981, the year of the cockerel in the traditional zodiac, in a peculiarly ambivalent mood. The sentences on Chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow and nine other people accused of counter-revolutionary activity have cleared the air somewhat, and the two-year suspension of the death sentence on her almost certainly means she will be spared execution and live out her life in prison.

This ambivalence from the growing tendency towards political casualness in many quarters. The Chinese leadership is sufficiently confident to show a certain leniency towards its subjects, but it is not so confident about the humanizing mood which underlies many of the reforms of recent years.

There will, however, be no leniency in government and no relaxation of the sentences on Jiang Qing and the others were sentenced to death, and that their continued existence represents a threat to the authority of the leadership group.

In this sense it may be more difficult for Mr. Deng to swing the country completely behind his bold and sweeping reforms, about which many people in positions of authority are worried because they depart so far from the teachings of Mao.

Others will criticize the sentences on the ground that the accused have been treated more leniently than they were once prominent leaders, whereas ordinary persons would have been executed for doing a hundredth of what Jiang Qing is accused of.

The common people have shown no sign of excitement at the sentences; they have been too busy preparing for the lunar new year festival which took place on February 4 and 5. Like the western Christmas, it is a time for feasting, shopping, drinking and visiting relatives.

This year many people have something special to celebrate—the reunion of a married couple previously assigned to separate jobs in different parts of the country, the return of a son or daughter from the rural areas, or the payment of compensation by the Government to people whose property was confiscated in the Cultural Revolution. This all good news for the city dwellers, but what of the peasants who make up 80 per cent of the population?

The new year is especially important to the peasants, whom it is associated with the crop year and is the time of many traditional superstitions or religious practices, by no means all of which are now abolished. The peasants can look for some satisfaction on a pair of strong arms.

In the cities, more and more young people see the chance of obtaining higher education, embarking on a career, or even starting a small business, which is no longer banned.

It is not surprising if some of the top generals and regional commanders have recently been showing signs of restiveness at Mr. Deng's policies, from which they have not benefited. On the contrary, they have seen their spokesmen, elbowing one by one out of the Politburo.

While reasserting its traditional control over the armed forces, the party leadership has also shown its prerogative of decision making in economic matters anywhere in China—by suddenly slashing big industrial construction projects and halting imports of most forms of foreign-made machinery and equipment.

Engineers and salesmen from Japan, Western Europe and North America are beginning to pack their bags, as work has come to a halt on numerous big industrial sites across the country. The idea is to take a fresh look at investment priorities and efficacy of equipment use.

Yet the Chinese economy is still fundamentally sound, being rooted in the soil, and still only marginally affected by economic trends in the developed world. The main problem caused by the cut-back in heavy industry will be the reemployment of the redundant workers.

Some workers will find employment in the textile and light industries, which are expanding fast. But the shadow of unemployment in the cities is lengthening as more school-leavers come on the job market, in addition to young people who have returned from the countryside.

The other big problem affecting all sectors of society is the growth of apathy, cynicism and refusal to accept responsibility, caused by the political twists and turns, and the ups and downs in the leadership, reversal of propaganda trends and so on. Chinese people are by nature industrious and enterprising, and it is astonishing how those qualities have been damped by three decades of socialism.

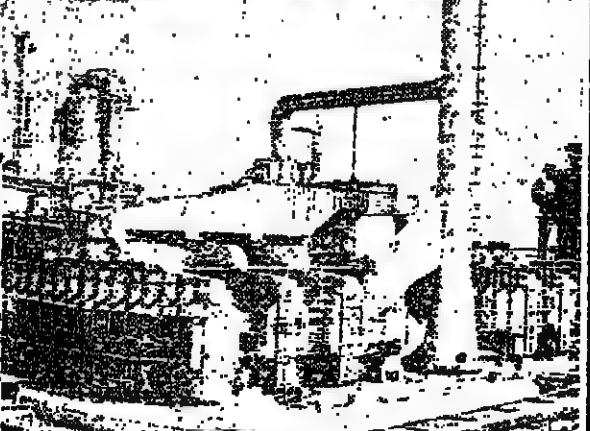
The party press inveighs daily against "going through the back door"—meaning corruption and nepotism. If China is to make the national recovery which has eluded it for a century and more, it will be through enlightened appeals to the self-interest of the mass of the people, who no longer believe in an earthly paradise to be built on the writings of Marx or Mao.

David Bonavia
author, *The Chinese*



photograph by Richard & Sally Greenhill

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Some tightening of screw likely

Politics and social reform is to be the keynote of the 1980s in China, as the policies of the post-Mao leadership are consolidated and translated into reality.

Liberation is the posture of most of the reforms already declared, but there are certain key areas where the rights of the individual to free self-expression will not be measurably enhanced, and may even see a tightening of the screw.

The late Chairman Mao's definition of political freedom was the right to discuss public affairs openly, and to criticize other people in public. But under Mao these freedoms were relative, and were accorded only to the left-wing faction holding sway at any particular time in any part of the country.

As Mao's widow, Jiang Qing, once said, "only the left has the right to rebel".

Expression of an opinion which Mao's group considered deviant or misjudged criticisms of one's superiors, could often did bring personal disaster; self-expression was actually suppressed more severely in Mao's later years than at any time in Chinese history.

The present leadership sees freedom of expression not as a goal in itself, but as a way of rationalizing social institutions through constructive criticism and, while high officials are expected to submit to criticism from the public, the people voicing it have better be sure they have their facts right and are prepared to carry their complaints all the way to the top.

Foreign news is dominated by up-to-date clips bought from the big western news agencies—a far cry from the year was a cook in an expensive Peking restaurant, who a few years ago, which used denounced the Minister of to end with the announced

Commerce for treating himself to cut-price banquets. The young cook was eventually vindicated, but only after he had met strong opposition from his work-mates who thought it inadvisable to "rock the boat". He ended up a hero, but he could just as easily have lost his job.

A good legal system is the basis of all freedom in the society, and just over a year ago the process of drafting comprehensive legal codes was begun with the publication of a new criminal law and law of criminal procedure.

There is still no systematized civil code in China, and the tradition of sorting out disputes through arbitration by the authorities on the spot is still widely used.

The acute shortage of people with training and experience in legal work is a severe hindrance to the implementation of the new codes, but it will be solved in time.

What remains to be seen is whether the Communist Party will stick to its pledge not to interfere in the legal process for political ends. No other communist country has reached such an ideal state.

More tangible for the mass of the people are the liberalization measures in culture, education, the arts and the news media. Turning on the television in the evening, one may see public, the people voicing it have better be sure they have their facts right and are prepared to carry their complaints all the way to the top.

Foreign news is dominated by up-to-date clips bought from the big western news agencies—a far cry from the year was a cook in an expensive Peking restaurant, who a few years ago, which used denounced the Minister of to end with the announced

ment: "Here is a summary of tomorrow night's news". The favourite television series is an American production about espionage and sabotage in the Second World War. The Chinese cinema is also much livelier than before, with thrillers, comedies, romantic love stories and, above all, films denouncing the evils of the Cultural Revolution. The productions are stagey and stilted, but the enthusiasm over saving something new is unmistakable.

Problems of sex, especially the wedding night, have been dealt with sensitively but realistically in a special supplement to the national women's magazine, which sold in large numbers.

Sometimes people go too far, in the eyes of the party, as in the case of a small printing shop which was turning an extra penny by printing copies of a Japanese zodiac which identified people with flowers rather than with constellations. It was in great demand until printing was stopped by the authorities.

Trivial much of this certainly is, but it takes years of being deprived of trivia to make people realize how much it contributes to the colour and interest of their lives.

On a more serious level, the party has reinstituted local government elections, and there is often a choice of candidates, though not always. The leaders have declared frequently that they want to see a real separation of functions between local governments and the party committees.

The party plans to opt out of day-to-day administration, and concentrate instead on general matters of policy, continued on page 11



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Guthrie

Purge of leftists reaches culmination

Leadership

Somewhat contrary to the wishes of his leaders, the past year has shown that in China politics still rules all. The principal event of recent months has been the trial of Jiang Qing, chairman Mao Tse-tung's widow, and nine other people, on charges of counter-revolutionary activity, including, in the case of some defendants, an attempt to assassinate Mao himself.

The trial, proclaimed as an example of the new legal code introduced last year, was run as a political show-piece, with incessant prejudicial comments in the national media, and minimal opportunities for the accused to defend themselves.

The other important event has been the removal of Mr Hua Guofeng from his post as Chairman of the Communist Party, a move which has yet to be formalized but which is regarded as almost certain. Mr Hua's enforced resignation is the culmination of the process of ridding the leadership of residual left-wing influence from the Mao era, and has been masterminded by Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Vice-Chairman and the country's leading strongman.

The ousting of Mr Hua has been only the most notable incident in Mr Deng's long drawn-out purge of leftists, and those who thought they could line up with them to oppose Mr Deng's increasingly violent assault on Mao and his ideas.

Most prominent in the Deng group are Mr Hu Yaobang, appointed Secretary-General of the party last year, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, who took over the post of Prime Minister from Mr Hua after a meteoric rise from provincial officialdom.

Mr Hu is widely rumoured to be about to succeed Mr Hua as chairman, but there have been other reports suggesting that the chairmanship may be abolished altogether, thus returning the party to the mould of the ruling parties of East Europe. In either case, Mr Hu would nominally be head of the party, though he would still be subordinate to Mr Deng in all practical matters. Yet another version has it that Mr Hua will not become a focus of opposition to Mr Deng.

Mr Deng has become increasingly alienated from Mr Hua because of his defence of Mao's reputation, at any rate his refusal to see it pulled apart as much as some would like. Still exercising moral influence in the People's Liberation Army, Mr Hua is believed to have tried to keep Mr Hua in office as a counter-weight to Mr Deng, and as the symbol of the continuity of policy since Mao's death in 1976.

Mr Li and Mr Chen, both veteran economic planners and administrators, are believed to be in favour of a somewhat more cautious pace in social and economic reform, but they will probably retire soon through age.

Persistent rumours tell of a serious quarrel between Mr Deng and General Xu Shiyuan, a deputy Minister of Defence and until recently commander of the Canton Military Region.

Mr Deng is understood to be particularly intent on taking over the chairmanship of the party's Central Military Commission from Mr Hua. There are many grounds to believe that some top military commanders have been voicing opposition to Mr

Deng's policies and he would doubtless like to bring them into line. Mr Zhao's appointment as Prime Minister was soon followed by the cancellation of large numbers of heavy industrial projects, considered wasteful or misplanned, and of much of China's import programme for the next two or three years.

Other key figures in the leadership include Mr Ye Jianying, the Vice-Chairman; Mr Li Xiangshan and Mr Chen Yun.

Having reportedly protected Mr Deng during the latter's second period of political disgrace in 1976, General Xu is thought to be in disagreement with the fear of being victimized if they go along with it, when there is still a chance of another leftist administration at some time in the future, and the present degree of administrative stagnation and confusion is easy to understand.

While any comeback by a leftist regime seems most unlikely from the vantage point of today, the habit of seeing politics as a cyclical process is deeply ingrained among Chinese administrators, who were schooled in a near-

superstitious awe of Mao. None the less, Mr Deng has been able to push through many reforms—some perhaps more evident on paper than in reality, others quite tangible and successful. The restoration of a measure of popular choice in local government elections, and encouragement to people to speak their minds, within certain limits, are healthy signs and very necessary after the long years of enforced conformism.

The new codes of criminal law and procedure, taxation, joint enterprises and protection of the environment, are laying down a basis for more rational and open government, supported by a greatly liberalized and resurgent press. Unfortunately too many high officials still adhere to the old methods of dictatorial fiat and factional intrigue.

Factionalism is one of China's most tenacious problems, and it is difficult to see how middle-level administrators can be expected to shun it when it still so clearly dominates political life at the top.

David Bonavia

Economy

Meeting basic needs supplants industrial projects

The Chinese economy, undergoing radical readjustment, presents a picture of uncharacteristically violent change. The suspension of heavy industrial construction projects in hand early last year is already showing results in the increased pace of growth in light industry, to which enormously increased investments are being channelled.

Orders for foreign-made industrial plants have almost dried up, and some are being curtailed before completion of shipment. Those which China is obliged to accept are being put under wraps for the next two or three years.

The rationale for this change of policy is twofold. The present leadership feels the economy will never be healthy until it solves the basic problems of food, clothing and consumer goods for 1,000 million people. There was a poor harvest last year—worse than that of 1979. Partly to cope with the immediate food shortage, and partly to encourage diversification of agriculture away from grain, the Government is importing large amounts of wheat, mainly from the United States, over the next few years.

The other reason for the reduction in heavy industry has been the over-ordering of advanced plant from Japan and the West before China could make use of it effectively, with a consequent drain of scarce foreign exchange and few results to be expected in the short term.

Heavy industry—especially steel—is considered to have been grossly wasteful over the past decade and more, as

a result of faulty planning and politically-motivated scorn for technical studies and rational use of equipment.

The oil and coal industries are also being cut back or allowed to stagnate for a while, despite the acute shortage of energy. This is justified by the leadership's declarations that more economic use of present energy sources can make big investments in non-renewable fuel reserves unnecessary for the time being. Oil has not quite matched last year's production figure of 106 million tons. Coal at 606 million tons, is down nearly 5 per cent.

Steel, despite the latest reductions in investment, increased more than 7 per cent to 37 million tons, with rolled steel increasing from 25 million tons to more than 27 million tons. Chemical fertilizer showed a much needed increase of 17.5 per cent to reach nearly 13 million tons in 1980.

Electric power generation was up more than 5 per cent to 237,000 million kilowatt-hours, and a further increase to 305,000 million kWh is planned for this year—mainly through new hydro-electric plants and more economic use of coal.

Light industries and textiles plants increased output by about 17 per cent last year, while heavy industry as a whole showed only a 1.6 per cent increase—indicating that the new priorities have begun to bite.

Large-scale projects consisting of goods ordered before the new cutback policy went into effect, rose by 15 per cent to 27,700m yuan (£7,426m), and exports by 27 per cent to 26,900m yuan (£7,212m). Exports of ag-

cultural and light industrial products fell slightly as a result of the poor harvest and as a result of world recession hitting demand.

Production of radio and television sets increased by 110 per cent and 84 per cent respectively, showing the leadership's concern with getting its political message across to the people—while providing more attractive and varied entertainment.

Other important indicators of concern for the consumer are bicycles (up 29 per cent), sewing machines (up 31 per cent) and watches (up 25 per cent). Watches and electronic goods are imported in significant quantities, although many of these are gifts to relatives from Chinese people living abroad.

The peasants benefited from increased rural power consumption which, at 37,000 million kWh was 14 per cent more than the 1979 figure. The new economic policy has clearly not been adopted without debate and even conflict at the top. Semi-official news leaks say that Mr Hua Guofeng, who is expected to step down shortly from his position as chairman of the Communist Party, is being blamed for the setting of over-ambitious production targets which threw the economy into disarray.

Most long-term observers of the Chinese economy feel this is only partly true, in the sense that Mr Hua adhered to the line of Chairman Mao Tse-tung in trying to build up a strong heavy industrial sector at the expense of the consumer. Numerous people were responsible for the excessive imports, which last year left China with a foreign debt of £1,447m.

The group around Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, Mr Hua's chief political rival, has certainly not been backward in authorizing the purchase of advanced industrial equipment from abroad.

Mr Hua was unlucky in his agricultural policy—a cornerstone of Mao's economic theory and a sphere in which he himself has long been active. The once beloved Dazhai Production Brigade, a model of left-wing experiments and egalitarianism, was denounced as a sham last year and its leader, Mr Chen Yonggu, removed from the Politburo. Mr Deng's agricultural policy—emphasizing less collectivization, more material incentives, rural free markets, diversification and higher prices for crops—has carried the day.

Higher food prices have brought inflation, the existence of which has been officially admitted for the first time. The emphasis on market forces and more autonomy for industrial enterprises has led to widespread price increases, and last year a nationwide price freeze was declared and inspections were begun to bring down excessively inflated prices. Another contributor to inflation, which is thought to be about 6 per cent, has been the indiscriminate payment of bonuses to industrial workers without appropriate increases in productivity.

The widely proclaimed entry of China into world financial markets in search of investment capital has still not taken place, and lines of credit open to it in the big capitalist countries have not been taken up to any significant extent.

DB

Social reforms

Single-child families get housing priority

Every year on the banks of the Yellow River, Chinese peasants battle with home-made weapons over the ownership of land uncovered by the river's receding waters. Land disputes like this are widespread throughout China; in Guangxi province alone several hundred people have been wounded or killed in recent years. Small wonder, then, that the Chinese Government is preparing a new land law.

Over the past four years, the Chinese have concentrated on changing social policy, with the result that a new criminal code, marriage law and birth control regulations have already been introduced. But evaluating the success of such social reforms, no matter how welcome, is a relative exercise.

Do you compare the situation with pre-liberation conditions, or with what could, or arguably should, have been achieved after 30 years of comparatively stable party rule? The Chinese attitude towards prison reform, mental illness, sexual deviation (even normal sexuality) are all being broadened, but can appear feudal.

Social changes are also unique in the degree to which political dogma is coupled with coercion of the community to shift behaviour in the desired direction. This process does not always go smoothly, as demonstrated by the "one is fine" birth control campaign that advocates single-child families, had horrific consequences:

Launched in late 1979, the campaign has run into deeply-rooted resistance from the public.

In keeping with the new outlook of accounts-keeping, profit-making China, the campaign is backed by economic reward, whereas 10 years ago ideological correctness was reward enough. Parents who promise to have only one child earn for themselves the private plots, food and fuel supplies of a two-child family. They are given housing priority over everyone else.

At the same time, having a third child means the loss of 10 per cent of a family's wage packet and an extra 5 per cent levy for every child after that. The message is clear: big families go hungry while the childless and one-child families live in comparative comfort.

Despite the obvious attraction of a higher standard of living, young women still consider their older friends were lucky to have escaped the policy. In order to have a second child, a woman must run the gauntlet of intimidating interviews with her unit leader and risk the opprobrium of her peers for the chance to take her turn in the unit's pregnancy rota. For the birth of a second child is becoming an act of political defiance.

The determination of one peasant woman to continue a second pregnancy despite the equally strong pressure from a unit leader to abort, had horrific consequences:

She was eventually forced to have her illegal child in the fields, and according to a Chinese press report, the leader followed her and strangled the newborn. In revenge, the mother went to his home and strangled all three of his children with a piece of wire.

Not all of China's recent social policy changes have been so controversial. Sometimes, official policy coincides happily with economic pressure and community practice. For years, all over China, people have "worked the system" through a series of impromptu advertisements pinned on telephone poles and well-travelled corners proposing the exchange of jobs and assignments with others equally well qualified.

In this way, people who would never have been transferred had they relied on official channels have rejoined their spouses and families in other cities and provinces. Now the Government is considering making these advertisements official, and a rash of essays in the press proposing

the advertisement of job vacancies appeared last summer. The official rationalization was the need for the "interflow of qualified personnel". For the average man, it may mean welcome loosening of the rigid fabric of Chinese society and an important new freedom.

Such signs of relaxation as have been to date have been celebrated in the Western press as Western-style "liberalization". One cannot deny the improvement in consumer goods, the appearance of increased contact between Chinese and foreigners and the Government's attempts to standardize the social regulation which govern their society.

However, changes in social policy are not necessarily social reforms in the Western sense, leading to greater democracy or individual rights. They have more to do with economic decisions made by the party and state aimed at improving economic stability in the end, continued survival of the party.

Dinah Le

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Trade

Technology bought beyond means

The Chinese trade bubble has not burst, but it has bubbled to an "inflationary" halt. The promise of a few years ago has faded, equipment import projects are being cut back, postponed or cancelled, and Peking officials privately concede that the present economic slowdown is "unavoidable" and may last into the mid-1980s.

With an annual value of about \$36,000m, China's trade will continue to be important even during these lean years. But the jockeying by Western corporations for contracts has been so fierce that a great deal of disillusionment is now evident.

To put it crudely, the Chinese were so thrilled by Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping's economic liberalism that they went out and bought new technological toys and equipment beyond their capacity either to pay for or digest.

British trade with China in the last year fell by 10 per cent. British exports dropped by 23 per cent, while China's shipments to the United Kingdom market grew by 12 per cent. Britain was left with a still healthy surplus representing an annual rate of almost \$90m.

Many other leading suppliers to China have fared as badly.

The United States is the major exception to the trend, with both exports and imports higher than the year before. But that is partly explained by China's continuing hunger for American farm products, as well as the somewhat exaggerated reputation which United States technology enjoys among Chinese managers. Last year China spent no less than \$2,000m on American wheat, cotton, corn and soybeans.

Some business is still there to be done, especially in such obviously sensible areas as agricultural processing, pharmaceuticals and radio and television.

With the premium on imports of machinery and knowledge, it is only to be expected that China's purchases of steel would fall. In the first half of 1980 Japan, the major supplier, sent only half of what it had been shipping in the preceding six months, and that figure was the lowest half-yearly total for five years.

Feeding 1,000 million Chinese presents a tougher challenge every year, and Chinese caution in the recent oil and current contracts for grain imports. Whereas Peking in the 1970s was buying only two million tonnes of grain a year, on average, from the Americans, for 1981-84 it has staked a claim to six million tonnes a year.

That is going to eat up an uncomfortably large share of China's available foreign currency.

Apart from such special cases as foodstuffs, fertilizers and certain key raw materials for industry, the Chinese shopping list for machinery in the period ahead is likely to echo Schubmacher's "small is beautiful". The grandiose schemes are suspect, but what Peking will buy is the modest six-figure machine tool-made for the next stage of a particular industry or plant's development.

And in this area it happens that British companies score, like Lacey with its efficient treatment equipment, or Bone-Markham's tandem extrusion coating machinery, or the company which has just sold almost half a million pounds worth of shoe-making equipment through, of all people, a French agent.

China is also buying second-hand machinery—lorries from Japan, probably, and \$750m worth of ships last year.

Otherwise the road to sales is by investment. Most of the 490 joint investment or collaboration ventures so far concluded with foreigners in "special economic zones" set aside for this purpose, most are with Hongkong or Japanese partners. Mr He Yao, deputy director of Shenzhen's External Economic and Technical Relations Office, claims that investors from 33 countries have been to talk to his officials, and expansion is on the way—not only at Shenzhen but also at two other places in Guangdong province: just opposite Hongkong, Zhuhai and Shantou.

In the first 15 months of the new joint venture law, up to last September, some 330 ventures were approved involving \$1,800m, of which foreigners furnished over three quarters. Most of these were loose cooperation ventures rather than investment of foreign capital.

But there are a few interesting pointers to the future. Jardine Matheson, never to be underestimated in the China market, won the first big manufacturing joint venture for its Schindler lift and escalator enterprise.

Hitachi followed suit with a joint venture to make 380,000 television sets annually by 1984 in Fujian province. In the agricultural sector Guthrie and a Singapore consortium are investigating \$2m in a Baitan island oil palm venture in return for three quarters of the profits.

China's capacity to import, whether at a provincial or central level, will depend on its own exports. There is no evidence of a big increase

to come, although China's official statistics show a 27 per cent increase last year to reach \$18,000m. Since imports were up only 15 per cent, the visible trade deficit was cut to only \$530m.

Of these total exports, however, the traditionally lucrative farm products and light industrial goods provided a smaller share than usual. The biggest increases were in heavy industry and minerals, and higher world oil prices were an important factor.

With imports there was a marked switch in 1980, the agriculture-related and light industrial categories jumping rapidly to account for more than half of the total. There was a corresponding fall in the intake of steel, metals and machinery (with instruments, about 28 per cent of the total).

Textiles have run up against the walls of protectionism in Western markets. The Americans, for example, found that China delivered over a million woollen sweaters to their market in one month alone last summer, so restraint was demanded. China faces certain limits to its earnings from this industry, although the ranks of potential markets for really cheap clothes are swelling. Shanghai alone now ships more than a year to Argentina and Chile.

Other ways of earning foreign exchange are being pressed. To woo the foreign tourist, Coca-Cola and cosmetics (first Max Factor and now Shiseido) are being imported. New ways of squeezing money out of the overseas Chinese are surfacing, from issuing credit cards to selling grave sites at \$1,000 a time.

The export of labour, on the pattern pioneered by South Korea in the Middle East, should also prove profitable.

China furthermore is hoping for substantial aid credits from the World Bank and United Nations agencies. A loan of \$10,000m over five years, specifically to restore China's transport system and reequip its universities, is being talked about.

In these ways the Chinese expect to operate a healthy foreign trade over the next few years, with small deficits covered by modest credits or invisible earnings. Their own exports will become more varied and advanced, while their imports will see the small and the second-hand in better balance with the glamorous complete plant which does not always graft successfully to unfamiliar soil and conditions.

Dick Wilson

The law

Restoring faith in the judicial system

The recent trial of Jiang Qing, Mao's widow, and her colleagues for counter-revolutionary activities was hardly the best advertisement for China's new system of criminal justice, established just over a year ago.

It was, in the main, a political show-trial. Even so, the accused had not been "broken" beforehand, and they did not make the false confessions that are usually the hallmark of such proceedings. They were entitled to lawyers of their choice. They could, and did, cross-examine witnesses and make statements and speeches. Moreover, the trial was to some extent public, and many millions of television watchers were able to watch Jiang Qing put up an extremely spirited defence.

The essential that was lacking was any indication that the verdict had not been predetermined. As show trials go, however, it was perhaps closer to Nuremberg than to the Russian trials of the 1930s.

It was probably inevitable that a case of such fundamental importance to the political structure of the country would be distorted, and it would be unfair and unfortunate if the "Gang of Four" trial were taken as a typical example of the direction being taken by the Chinese legal system. The reality is more encouraging, starting from a base of appalling chaos, the Chinese are attempting the daunting task of building up a fair and coherent system to govern a wide range of legal matters.

Up to 1977, for nearly a decade and a half, there was in effect no legal system. China was a lawless society; the whim of the ascendant faction was paramount and the laws that had previously operated were jettisoned.

Lawyers were among the first to suffer from the political upheaval. Branded as elitists, intellectuals and counter-revolutionaries, most of them were sent to work in factories or on the land, and even those who escaped that treatment could no longer work as lawyers.

The law faculties in the universities were abolished or became severely limited in what they could teach. There were no law graduates, and no legal textbooks were published. It is only in the past four years, since the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" that it has become possible to try to restore some form of legal order.

There are three elements in the present policy of the Chinese Government: first, to draw up new laws; second, to establish a core of lawyers, judges, administrators and other legal or para-legal persons; and third, to educate the people to understand and appreciate the law and to have respect for it.

The first is being achieved through the adoption of a number of new codes, the first seven of which came into force last year. They deal with criminal law, criminal procedure, people's courts, people's procuracies, joint ventures, electoral law, and people's congresses. These are being followed by codes on civil law, civil procedure, taxation, corporation law, patents, and marriage and divorce. Interestingly, many of the codes are based on examples from Western countries and Japan.

Producing enough lawyers to participate in the system is more difficult than merely passing the laws. With the batch of lawyers who have only just emerged from the law schools, the youngest lawyers in China are aged about 30. Many of those who practised before the cultural revolution are dead. Others are too old to resume their profession or do not wish to do so. It will take many years—probably more than a decade—even to reach the number of lawyers who were active in

Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Foreign relations

Year of advance in global engagement

Last year was not one of dramatic or measurable change in China's relations with its enemies or its friends. What did show a significant advance was the country's engagement with the world in a way that offers more grounds for confidence in its future.

Afghanistan might have been thought enough to ensure that China's hostility to Russia was given a new impetus. So it was, in denunciation and confirmation of China's view that the Soviet Union was robbing the world of a great power, but China's involvement in the matter of Russian suspicion constantly cooled and no serious border conflict developed.

The same could not be said of Vietnam. Talks between the two countries were cancelled on the Chinese side in March. In July there was trouble on the border, in October cross-border raids, in November and December artillery fire, each side blaming the other. Vietnam's belief that any withdrawal of its part from Kampuchea would certainly mean the substitution of Chinese domination in that luckless country was untouched by Chinese denials.

The wish to improve relations between India and China has often been expressed from both sides. But whereas in 1979 China's invasion of Vietnam sent the Indian Foreign Minister hurrying back to his country, so in 1980 India's recognition of the Heng Samrin Government in Kampuchea prompted the Chinese Foreign Minister to cancel his intended visit. This took matters back to square one and revived memories of 1962.

Friendship did not get much warmer either. In an American election year President Carter had nothing to add, if anything he was on the defensive for having treated Taiwan rudely. China was alerted to danger by Mr Reagan's off-the-cuff comments on that island in August. Mr Ray Chiao's even braver return from Mr Huang Hua's visit to ASEAN countries in the spring or from Mr Lee Kuan Yew's trip to the well-disposed General Prem Tinsulanond of Thailand did not get much warmer. European Community leaders and he were accused of the dangers of détente with the Russians, and was certainly no more diverted from his view of the matter than all the other visitors from Europe who had preceded him. Naturally enough, the Japanese are made a little anxious lest China's hostility to the Russians should impose upon them an equal hostility with a country they have found it hard to get on with. But this risk was also not increased in the past year.

It should have been obvious by now how sensitive an issue Taiwan is to all Chinese who remember 1895 (China's defeat by Japan and cession of Taiwan) which perhaps American presidents do not always do, not to mention the Dutch who met a sharp reaction to their willingness to sell two submarines to the Government in Taipei.

Among neighbours China might have hoped for a better return from Mr Huang Hua's visit to ASEAN countries in the spring or from Mr Lee Kuan Yew's trip to the well-disposed General Prem Tinsulanond of Thailand did not get much warmer. European Community leaders and he were accused of the dangers of détente with the Russians, and was certainly no more diverted from his view of the matter than all the other visitors from Europe who had preceded him. Naturally enough, the Japanese are made a little anxious lest China's hostility to the Russians should impose upon them an equal hostility with a country they have found it hard to get on with. But this risk was also not increased in the past year.

China has consistently supported negotiation and never sought to justify Iran's breaking of diplomatic rules. The Chinese are sticklers for them. Similarly the Iran-Iraq war has been deplored as an unnecessary disturbance of the peace; a compromise should be sought.


These are all different attitudes from those that Mao made familiar in the past. As for deeds, they may be judged, too, as a mark of China's change. In Tokyo early last year Mr Li Qiang, Peking's Minister of Trade, told the Japanese that China was ready to "adopt all the practices generally acceptable in world trade", a message that could be translated into an engagement to world peace, at least in the small but significant way of joining in at the United Nations. Since China was elected to that body in 1971 in place of the rival government in Taiwan, Peking's attitude has been cautious, hesitant, sometimes suspicious or doctrinally inhibited, never as committed to the United Nations and its purposes as a country with so strong a tradition of peace-making might—given a weakening of its Marxist view of the world.

—be willing to engage in. Last year seemed a turning point. From the United Nations Committee on Disarmament to the High Commissioner for Refugees from UNIDO to the World Intellectual Property Organization, China became a participant and contributor. Add to this membership of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank and it might be argued that China's place among the five permanent members of the Security Council looks a good deal less hollow than when President Roosevelt first insisted upon it.


Such a commitment seems to suggest that the China that was faced by a war in Korea within months of the Government's emergence from two decades in the backwoods, and which then suffered two decades of upheaval from Mao's shifting view of a world in revolution, may be slowly moving towards more stable relations, even if the 50 Russian divisions along their frontier are likely to prolong the mutual suspicions and mutual fears that have troubled many countries besides these two giants.

Richard Harris

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Education

Schools are 'streamed' on hierarchical lines

The Chinese education system has emerged battered and shaken from the Cultural Revolution. Teachers are trying to regain the prestige they enjoyed in the early 1960s, while schools and colleges settle back into the buildings they lost to other organizations during the closure of all Chinese schools from 1966 to 1969. The *People's Daily* has called for a redistribution of investment away from heavy industry and into the schools and universities, and has pointed out that "without trained personnel, material construction will be unsuccessful".

When schools reopened in 1969, they were told to carry out a revolution in education by training a new generation of proletarian fighters well versed in the evils of revisionism and the criticism of Lin Biao and Confucius. Strident propaganda praised model pupils like Huang Shuai, who argued with her primary school teacher over ideological matters and became headline news in the national press. Examinations were banned, and teachers privately complained that classroom discipline was breaking down.

Today the Chinese education system is organized along strictly hierarchical lines, and the egalitarian rhetoric of the Gang of Four is heard no more. Instead, various types of schools have been designated to deal with various groups of students: key schools for the academically gifted, ordinary full-time schools for average pupils whenever possible, and "part-work, part-study schools" in poorer, mainly rural areas where state funds

are insufficient to provide universal education.

Lying behind the transformation of the education system in the past two years is the regime's conviction that the distance which separates China from the developed world matters far more than the distance which separates the country's backward areas from the big towns. The national effort is directed at modernization of the economy, and schools, too, are expected to produce students who have mastered the skills the country needs.

The emphasis is no longer laid on improving schools in poor areas until they reach the standards of urban schools. Today the hierarchical division of each sector of education into "key institutions" and others is the pivot of official policy. Entry to key schools is limited to successful candidates in stiff tests. The examinations increase in difficulty as pupils move up through the system, until fewer than 5 per cent of middle school graduates gain places in institutes of higher education.

Since resources are limited, the key schools have priority throughout, in staff, buildings, money and of course pupils. There are key schools at national, provincial and local levels, each enjoying precedence in allocations of funds from their parent bodies (the Ministry of Education, provincial education bureaux or county education offices). Naturally, there is intense competition for places in national key schools and universities, and a predictably large number of places go to children from intellectual and professional families. In universities, the days of positive discrimination

in favour of "worker-peasant-soldier students" have gone.

Young people today study furiously for entrance examinations, fully aware that admission to university is the first step towards a successful career. University courses which were shortened to an average of three years in the early 1970s have been restored to their pre-Cultural Revolution length of four to five years. Academic titles, once denounced as "bourgeois symbols of intellectuals' thirst for power", have been reintroduced across the board, and the practice of awarding degrees is soon to begin again. There has even been talk of allowing universities to conduct their own entrance examinations and to expel unsatisfactory students. Academics, while welcoming these moves to grant them more control, watch cautiously as the state loosens its grip on one sector of the educational system after another.

All this is a far cry from the university recruitment procedures of the early 1970s, when candidates were required to have spent at least two years after middle school "learning from the poor and lower-middle peasants" as part of the "down to the countryside" movement. At that time, recommendation by work-mates followed by endorsement from the local party committee gave a candidate the right to be interviewed by university recruitment teams which toured the country in search of students who met strict ideological standards.

It was impossible for the universities to conduct even basic general knowledge tests on prospective students, since this would lead to the charge that they were "putting marks in command" instead of upholding the dictatorship of the proletariat in the educational realm. The result was that many university classes were at a level better suited for middle school pupils; teachers who had already suffered considerable physical and mental distress were asked to teach courses which they regarded as insulting to their professional competence; and morale in the university departments never recovered from the damage done by factional disputes during the Cultural Revolution.

The present regime has done a great deal to improve the atmosphere in the staff rooms, not least by leaving teachers to get on with their teaching. Instead of organizing long spells of "open-door schooling", when classes left campus for weeks at a time to live, work and study in factories or in the countryside, schools and universities now ensure that students spend most of their time studying. Manual labour and political meetings, which used to occupy so much time that academic work suffered, have been considerably reduced.

During the Cultural Revolution, Chinese schools were so vigilant in guarding against alien influences that the quality of education was pushed into second place. Press articles gave warning that intellectuals were resisting the party's efforts to reform their outlook and insisted that working class control of education was necessary to guarantee a reliable generation of "revolutionary successors". Today this concern over

the social implications of educational policy has been replaced by an obsession with the economic effectiveness of China's schools. Deng Xiaoping is as unmoved by the elitist implications of the key school system as were the Cultural Revolution leftists by the damage done to academic standards during the worker-peasant-soldier years.

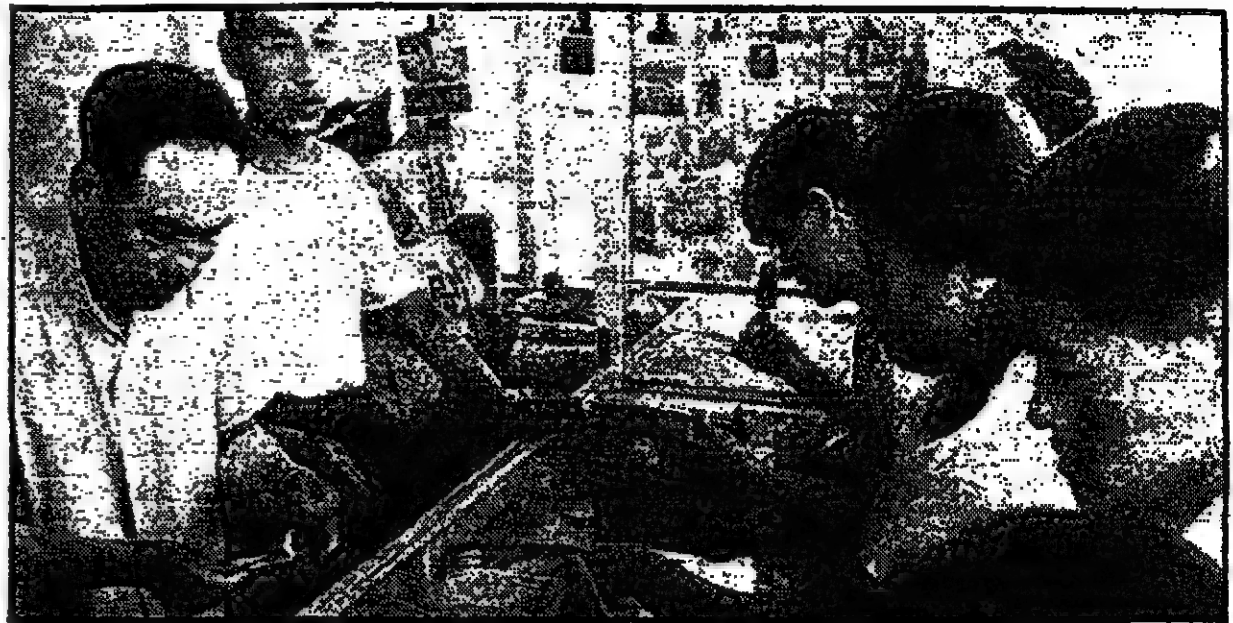
The reversal of Cultural Revolution policies could hardly be more complete. Even the aim of achieving universal primary education in rural areas seems to have been shelved until conditions are appropriate. A network of part-work, part-study schools has been reestablished in country areas where the state is unable to finance full-time schools for all, and many non-key schools are beginning to change their curricula to include more technical subjects. These policies recognize the reality that for two country children (or town children who fail to enter key schools) are likely to proceed to higher education, but they also make the streaming of the Chinese education system more rigid at each stage.

It is easy to see why the present policies have been adopted and to sympathize with a regime struggling to make up for lost time. But schools are certain to grow if the present policies continue unmodified throughout the 1980s. Only through a rapid development of correspondence courses and the new but immensely popular Television University can the educational ambitions and needs of China's younger generation be met.

Beth McKillop

The arts

Nostalgic indulgence in the past



Literature of the Cultural Revolution has been described as "immaturely conceived" since individual writers could expect little in the way of personal fame or financial gain and indeed they hardly existed, either writing as part of a team or hiding behind pseudonyms. It might equally well have been described as test-tube conception for all artistic creation was governed by regulations.

The desired result was to produce works which "present in a healthy way a revolutionary content, exalt with deep and warm proletarian feelings the Great Chairman Mao; exalt the great, glorious and infallible Chinese Communist Party". Writers had to eschew such "bourgeois concepts" as the complexity of the inner mind and human interest, which was no good because it connected people along lines other than those of class, and which, above all, followed the rule of prominence whereby the hero was indisputably and infinitely superior to class enemies. Anyone who tried to ignore these regulations would never get his work published and would probably be imprisoned.

Such rules were most strongly felt in literature but extended to the visual arts where painters ignored at their peril directives to avoid "paintings of lemons, cherries, dead fish, girls with flowers and similar trash". The medium was not subject to such restrictions, and Western oil could be used alongside the traditional monochrome brush style as long as the content conformed.

Traditional art forms continued to flourish but paintings of misty mountains always contained a line of electric pylons, and peasants working in paddy fields instead of hermits drinking wine in rustic retreats. Traditional new year prints pasted on doorways at spring festival still depicted fat happy but when the Gang falls, they were overshadowed by pylons, tractors and other apparatus of bumper harvests under socialism.

Painters and writers were among those who suffered most during the Cultural Revolution and even those who were not "persecuted to death" endured considerable assaults on their integrity and confidence. Thus, though they reacted most enthusiastically to the downfall of the Gang of Four—the ballerina Dai Ailian says she danced on points all the way down the street—it has taken them some time to recover professionally from 10 years of restriction.

The immediate result of the downfall of the Gang was a passionately nostalgic indulgence in the past. The great novels of the 1930s and 1940s by Lao She, Mao Dun and Ba Jin were reissued together with other forbidden fruit, translations of foreign classics like Dumas, Shakespeare and Melville, and said to crowds who queued for days.

Classic Peking operas were revived immediately by troupes who had continued to rehearse them between performances of model revolutionary Peking operas which had borrowed something of the style and form but thrown out the old stories. Similarly, Western classical music had been played by the Chinese symphony orchestras in rehearsal and was quickly brought to the public. These popular classical forms, both Chinese and Western, seem now to be firmly reestablished.

The first new works of significance to appear after the fall of the Gang were short stories about the injustice, persecution and misery of the Cultural Revolution. They are called "the literature of the wounded" after the most famous, Lu Xinhua's *The Wound*, which also brings in the theme of the harm done to young people such as the heroine of the story who cuts herself off from her mother who has been unjustly imprisoned.

She sees the only hope of a decent life in rejecting her past but when the Gang falls and her mother is reinstated, she realizes her mistake and rushes home. She arrives as her mother expires but the

gloom is slightly relieved by a young man who managed to get there before her mother died and who will help to heal her "wound".

"Wound painting" is exemplified by Han Meilin's soft portrait of his dog which was clutched to death by Red Guards. There has been some criticism of "wound literature" as unhealthy and pessimistic and, perhaps, because it reveals to the outside world too clearly the horrors of the recent past.

In denouncing the Cultural Revolution, cultural authorities find themselves in a difficult position for it may seem that there are now no rules. This is not the case, for the most recent meeting of the National Congress of Writers and Artists (autumn 1979) concluded that "socialist literature should first of all eulogize the people and meritorious individuals...".

These themes reappear everywhere: "its a girl in a leotard wraps herself round Bob's model, in the new genre of socialist science fiction where overseas Chinese scientists make discoveries for the motherland and in films such as *Love on Lushan Mountain* where a dedicated architect loves an overseas Chinese girl with an amazing wardrobe and the ability to climb mountains in high heels.

These ideas represent culture's contribution to modernization both in the incorporation of the outside world through the acceptable mediation of the overseas Chinese and through the fact that the hero of the 1980s is no longer a worker or a peasant but a scientist.

People buying opera programmes in Peking.

political allegory Peking in the year 2000 (featuring the return of the dreaded Gang) have made the transition from unofficial to official publication.

Sadly, not many unofficial works are so lucky, although not all of them are so good. An unofficial art exhibition at Democracy Wall included some terrible paintings by a young man who claimed that the Gang of Four had prevented him from going to art school. They may have been right but his sense of injustice and hope for a new chance, characteristic of the young people depicted in "wound literature", represent a problem for the censoring authorities in culture.

After the reprints and "wound literature" there are finely signs of new developments, particularly in the work of Shen Rong, a woman who writes powerfully of the abuse of dedicated professionals and of the problems of working women, and in the more popular writing of Zhang Yang. His best seller *Against I Clasp Your Hand* contains themes of unrequited love, the return of patriotic overseas Chinese and dedication to scientific work.

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Frances Wood

Some tightening of screw likely in post-Mao era

continued from page 1

Experienced bankers and traders who were thrown out of their jobs in the late 1960s have been compensated and begun showing up again to negotiate trade deals with foreign companies. China does not have so great a pool of expert knowledge that it could possibly have gone on with Mao's persecution of specialists, technicians and intellectuals.

The cult of Mao's personality—denounced as "modern superstition"—has been abolished, with his huge statues in many places being pulled down, or sawn up into manageable chunks for disposal. Even the revered "former prime minister, the late Chou En-lai, is no longer the object of a posthumous cult. Mao's

successor as party chairman, Mr Hua Guofeng, showed signs of creating a cult around himself, but it was a failure and he is expected soon to be out of office.

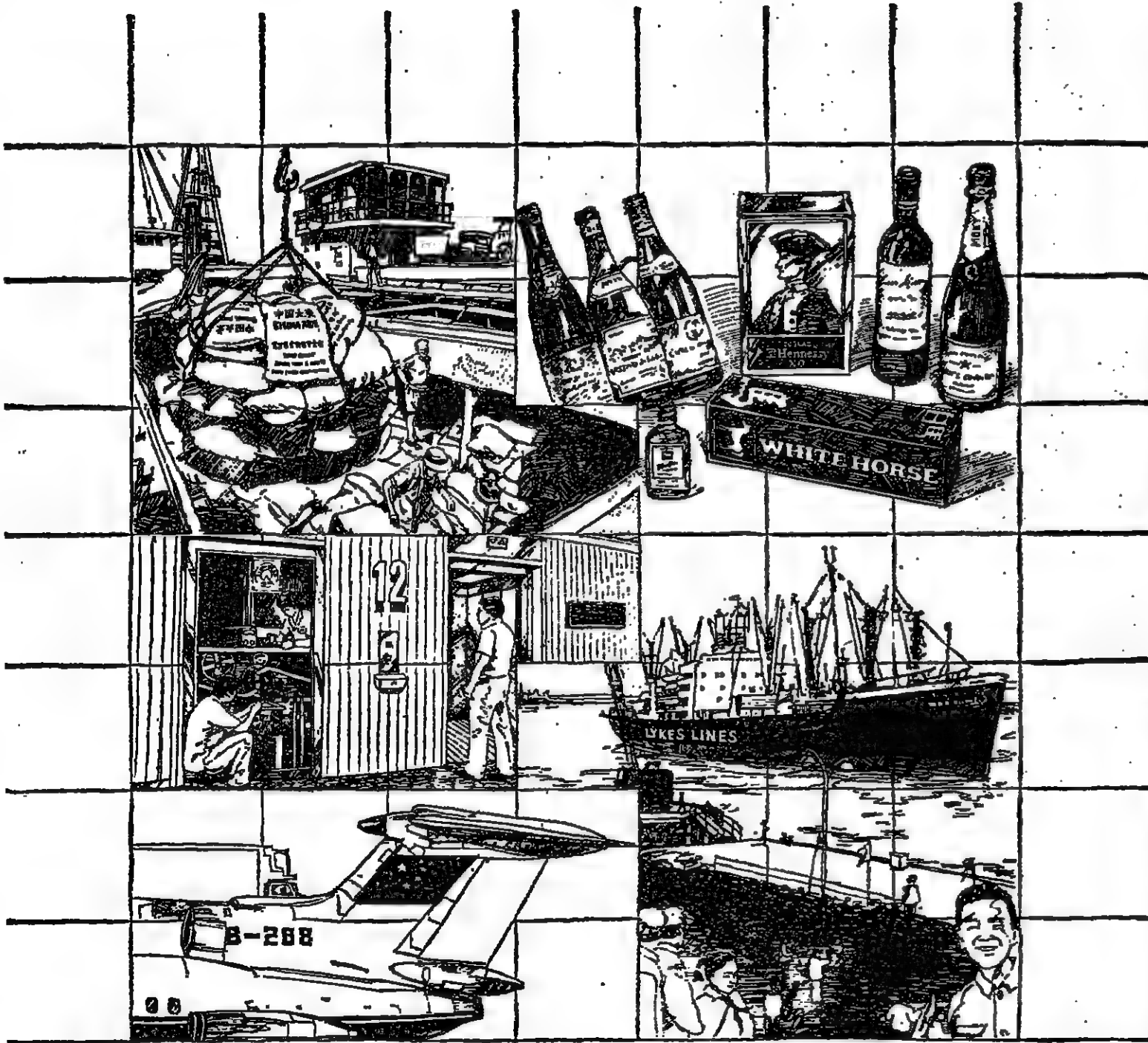
Efforts have been made to turn the National People's Congress into something more resembling a parliament, but it meets too seldom to exercise genuine authority. It can act mainly as a way of letting off steam and venting complaints, as well as a means of honouring outstanding people not necessarily members of the party. A "united front" policy is in effect, and small political parties without any Marxist ideology have been revived, if only for show.

Liberalization, as is to be expected, has been accom-

panied by a rising crime rate, alarmingly visible among juveniles and unemployed young people. Foreign students have been robbed quite often in Shanghai, and there are reports of a rash of terror bombings.

It may be that crimes are now being reported which previously were kept under wraps, but it is clear that the police are very busy by no means in control of the situation in some places. This is one of the prices a country pays for greater freedom, and so far the leaders show no sign of considering the price too high for without liberalization China can show little scientific, intellectual or economic progress.

David Bonavia



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THE FIFTH PROPRIETORSHIP

The Times has a new proprietor, Mr Rupert Murdoch. His is the fifth proprietorship in the history of the paper. By far the longest was the proprietorship of the founding family of John Walter which lasted for more than a century. That was followed by the proprietorship of Northcliffe, which was in its turn followed by that of the Astors and by the Thomson proprietorship which is now at an end. Each of these ownerships has made its own major contribution to the paper. The Walters, after John Walter I, a failed Lloyds underwriter, had seized the opportunity to provide an unsurpassed coverage of the French Revolution, created the Times as a great Victorian institution with a combination of Victorian efficiency, Victorian thoroughness and the Victorian conscience. The reputation and the character of the paper dated from their time and in particular from the long Editorship of Delane, from 1841 to 1877, the greatest of the Editors of The Times.

Period of stability

Northcliffe bought The Times after a period of decline. He infused it with his own demonic energy and he completely reorganized the commercial side. He was, however, always in conflict with the spirit of the paper which resisted the propaganda inherent in his method and the excited exaggeration and distortion which is inherent in all propaganda. In his last years, Northcliffe was not in his right mind and after the experience of Northcliffe the Astor proprietors provided an honourable stability.

The Astors were the least commercial of proprietors, not seeking to profit from the paper and simply wanting The Times to be conducted as a service to the nation. By 1966, commercial conditions had made it impossible for any private family to carry on a newspaper on this basis. At that time, Roy Thomson was the leading proprietor of Fleet Street. He aimed to protect the future of The Times, which he did not expect to be a profitable undertaking, by merging it with The Sunday Times and like Northcliffe, by reorganizing its commercial management.

Roy Thomson was a business man of remarkable gifts. As a proprietor, he was extremely generous to The Times. He gave us consistent and strong support and exercised a shrewd and powerful commercial judgment. Although he was a great newspaper man and owned two hundred or more newspapers, he understood newspapers from the commercial and not from the editorial side. He was also an almost incredibly successful business man, making his final fortune in oil, worth several hundreds of millions of pounds, when he was in his eighties.

The death of Roy Thomson in 1976 marked the beginning of a period of crisis for the paper which has lasted to this day. There have been several strands to the crisis. Kenneth Thomson, the second Lord Thomson of Fleet, continued his father's policy of generosity and support for the paper, but had an attitude to the paper which was in some ways closer to that of the Astors than to his father's. His own main interests were, increasingly, in his home country of Canada, where he has greatly

expanded the business interests of the Thomson family both in newspapers, such as The Toronto Globe and Mail, and in the very major acquisition of control of The Hudson Bay Company. His attitude towards The Times was that of the honourable trustee. He had a great sense of responsibility towards the paper, but as we lurched from crisis to crisis, all springing from bad industrial relations, the burden of the responsibility became heavier and heavier. In the last four years, neither owning nor managing The Times has been much joy to anyone, and it can have been a joy to him.

In 1976, it was already clear that The Times, with its massive setting requirement, needed to be brought on to the new electronic composing, room equipment. This added to the stresses which already existed with the trade unions. The Times was substantially overmanned, as was The Sunday Times. Unless levels of manning could be reduced, and the new technology brought in, the company would not operate at a profit and in most years was certain to make significant losses.

The relationship with the unions had become steadily worse and there were frequent disruptions of production, particularly on The Sunday Times. The attempt to negotiate a major set of reforms broke down in 1978 and was followed by nearly a year's suspension of both papers. Within a year of that suspension coming to an end, it had become apparent that so much damage had been done to the industrial relationships inside the business that it could not be put right under Thomson's ownership. Kenneth Thomson's decision to sell the paper followed his recognition of that fact. It was a sad conclusion to a proprietorship to which The Times owes a great deal. It was a correct decision, but it was one made with great regret on both sides. The successful negotiations between Mr Murdoch and the unions have largely achieved what the Thomsons were not able to achieve between 1978 and 1980.

An act of courage

The first thing to be said about Mr Rupert Murdoch's ownership of The Times is that his decision to take on our problems was an act of considerable courage. He is now, as Roy Thomson was in 1967, the leading active proprietor in Fleet Street. There have been in this century, four men who have transformed Fleet Street by their ownership of newspapers. The other transformation, that achieved by the modern Daily Mirror, was the result not of individual ownership but of a combination of two or three remarkable men. The four most important proprietors have been Northcliffe, Beaverbrook, Roy Thomson and Rupert Murdoch and three of the four have been proprietors of The Times. It is a measure of the challenge which lies ahead of Mr Murdoch that neither Northcliffe nor Roy Thomson, though they both made a great contribution to the development and continuity of the paper, managed to solve its commercial problems. If Mr Murdoch does resolve those problems, he will have achieved something which has defied the masters of his craft. Mr Murdoch stands somewhere

between Northcliffe and Roy Thomson in newspaper ownership. Northcliffe was an editorial genius who created great wealth through his newspapers but left most of the business management to his brother, the first Lord Rothermere. Roy Thomson was a business man. The first thing he would do with a newspaper was to count the columns of advertising. He had a strong sense of the need for the editorial side to be responsible, and of course he wanted it to be attractive, but he did not regard himself as in any way expert in the editorial field. Nor did he attach much importance to his personal views of public affairs. Rupert Murdoch comes from a newspaper family and has always involved himself in the editorial character as well as the commercial efficiency of his papers. Yet he is also very much an international business man, fascinated by the problems and opportunities of managing and financing a worldwide group of companies. He is neither as much the pure editorial newspaper man as Northcliffe, nor as much the pure commercial newspaper man as Roy Thomson. He is, however, very obviously a man in love with newspapers, a newspaper professional but even more a newspaper romantic.

Assurances of independence

The assurances of editorial independence which Mr Murdoch has given are very far reaching and there is no reason to doubt he will abide by them. There is also no doubt that he will want to make a contribution to raising the level of The Times and The Sunday Times as newspapers. There is always an opportunity for that. The task of a daily newspaper is by definition impossible. It is necessary, three hundred times a year, to produce a complete and accurate, yet stimulating and interesting account of the previous day's news, accompanied by serious comment and opinion and by other elements of information and entertainment. Inevitably, newspapers have periods when they are operating less than perfectly in one area or another, just as a day in which the newspaper has been charged with energy and effectiveness may be followed by a day in which the news is rather dull and the sails flap against the mast.

There can never be too much thought put into a newspaper nor can there ever be too much energy put into a newspaper. It is essential that a proprietor should leave the ultimate independence and integrity of a newspaper to the Editor. A proprietor should, and Mr Murdoch will, leave it to the judgment of the Editor of The Times at the next election, whether to support any or none of the parties that put themselves forward. Nevertheless The Times is likely to benefit, and not only commercially from having new energies thrown into it. It is always a struggle to achieve an unattainable standard. Certainly, the editorial staff look back with gratitude to the support the paper has had from the Thomson family as they still do to the Astors. They also look forward, with relief and eagerness, to the new proprietorship of Mr Murdoch, which they believe holds out great hope for the future of the paper.

Childbirth at home

From Dr S. J. Ware
Sir, I was surprised to read Dr Garrow's views (letter, February 2) supporting those who advocate more childbirth at home, and I would guess that the minority among paediatricians.

The question of home deliveries is a vexed one, and most obstetricians and paediatricians are bound to hold views different from those of patients. If the chances of an unexpected disaster at home leading to a brain-damaged infant, which could have been prevented in hospital, are, say, one in several thousand, the chances of the mother's point of view is very small and may reasonably be disregarded by her.

To the paediatrician however, the obvious enormous chance is an eventual certainty as he will have responsibility for thousands of newborn every year. The risk is hard to quantify, and will not be found among the available statistics, but most of us see such children in our clinics.

Clearly, "humanisation" of the maternity hospital process, as suggested by Mrs Short's committee, is the best compromise. Even such a momentous event as the birth of a new baby inevitably loses its thrill for staff who deal with it 10 or 15 times a day: many units are understaffed which may make it harder to apply the important personal touch. Nevertheless most of us are taking active steps to try and make our maternity departments less like sausage machines.

Perinatal services, particularly neonatal care, are not as comprehensive in some units as you would like them to be. But one has to balance the distress to the mother, separated from home and family at this most vulnerable time, often for a week or more in hospital, against the risk of preventable perinatal damage to the infant which, though rare, constitutes a life sentence for child and parents alike.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN WARE,
Basildon Hospital, Netherhamme, Basildon, Essex.

Question of change in remand rule

From Lord Gardner, CH.
Sir, Your editorial comment on the display by Paisley's mounted foot (February 7) correctly highlights the dangerous state of tension which now exists in Ulster as a result of the Prime Minister's refusal to elucidate what was agreed between himself and the Irish Prime Minister in the December summit meeting. Paisley's political career has been built by exploiting such fears in the unionist population of the province. In view of the actions of previous British governments, we have the right to be sceptical, but we must not allow the Government to be acting in collaboration with a man who came to power in his country on the back of the militant republicans in his party.

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Yours sincerely,
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dangers of British ambiguity on Ulster

From Mr B. S. D. Graham

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Fading beauty of colour film

From the Editor of the National Photographic Record

Sir, The chairman of Technicolor Ltd (February 10) has drawn attention to the impermanency of colour film. It is not generally recognized, however, that the problem extends to most still colour transparencies also, since the organic dyes which are susceptible to fading over a period of years due to the action of light, and certain other factors.

There must be, in total, millions of "prized" colour slides taken by photographers—holiday snaps and the like—which will inevitably fade over the years, much to the surprise and disappointment of their owners. More serious, however, is the potential loss of colour in colour photographs which have been used for the purpose of preserving an accurate record of objects d'art, buildings, portraits, furniture, etc., for posterity.

This problem was highlighted at a Royal Photographic Society Symposium on "The conservation of colour photographic records" which was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in September, 1977. It was then apparent that whilst certain precautions could be taken to minimize fading, the most effective measure is to convert a colour transparency into three constituent separation negatives, from which a facsimile of the original can readily be reconstructed with negligible loss of quality. The black and white separations are virtually "permanent" and cost together little more than the original colour slide. If they have not already done so, archives would be well advised to convert their existing stock to separation negatives as soon as possible. It is to be hoped that this facsimile photographic archive will be speedily established and that it will address itself to this problem as one of its first priorities.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WALL,
Kilgannon,
46 The Meadows,
Barnsley,
Stockton on Tees, Cleveland,
February 11.

Prince Philip's speech

From the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University and others

Sir, Your report (February 10) of the Mountbatten Memorial Lecture by his Royal Highness Prince Philip, given at the Cambridge Union on the evening of February 9, has misled some of your readers. This lecture was concerned with the life and achievements of Lord Mountbatten, not nuclear weapons.

The statement which you printed was his answer to a question from the floor after the lecture. Prince Philip added that he was in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament, but this sentence did not appear in your report.

Yours truly,
PETER SWINERTON-DYER,
ALAN COTTELL,
J. H. PLUMBE,
D. N. SENIOR,
St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

MEPs spending

From Mr. Paddy Taylor, MP for South-East Essex (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Fred Catherwood's letter today (February 10) on recent publicity about tours by members of the European Assembly does not deal with the serious question of greatest concern. It is certainly true that some have questioned the need for the substantial number of tours by MEPs. Hearing in mind that the Assembly has no foreign affairs or defence powers, and only a limited right to consultation on trade issues. But the real objection which has been voiced over the Euro-tours relates to the cost and apparent extravagance of the ventures.

It is true that there is widespread unemployment and considerable hardship throughout Europe, there is surely an obligation on elected representatives who control their own budgets to exercise the maximum degree of prudence and economy.

Mrs Thatcher has set a splendid example in the case of our own Government and Parliament. The recent example of the traditional dinner "Don't drink before the Queen's Speech" when the ministers were asked to pay themselves instead of adding to public expenditure may have saved a few hundred pounds, but surely it is the right example at a time of hardship and restraint.

A select committee of British MPs was advised in November by one of our Treasury ministers that there is a need to examine the way in which the Council of Ministers does not question the spending of the Euro Assembly. Surely this lack of external control places a special obligation on Sir Paddy and his colleagues to exercise the degree of prudence which taxpayers are entitled to expect from a responsible body.

Yours sincerely,
PADDY TAYLOR,
House of Commons.

Voice from the past

From Mr D. Cooper

Sir, RSM Brittain's power of observation were not infallible. During the later stages of the Mons course we were allowed to see before us the military issue was insufficient some of us used our own.

هكذا من الأصل

UDT bid sealed by Savings Banks



Mr. Tom Bryans: delighted with decision.

THE TROUBLEMAKERS, *continued*

DOUGLAS

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS HOLDINGS LIMITED

Civil Engineering and Building Contractors

INTERIM STATEMENT

The Directors report as follows:—

- The unaudited profit of the group for the half-year to 30th September, 1980 is as follows:—

	1980	1979	Year to 31 Mar 80
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Turnover	52,798	47,404	93,287
Trading profit before depreciation	2,821	2,564	6,084
Depreciation	1,499	1,414	2,817
Profit before taxation	1,122	1,150	3,267
Taxation	308	475	1,391
Group profit after taxation	813	675	1,876
Earnings per ordinary share of 25p	8.0p	6.7p	18.8p

- It is group practice to incorporate interim profits of associated companies only to the extent of any dividends received from those companies.
- The results for the six months to 30th September, 1980 are satisfactory in the circumstances in which the construction industries are operating, both at home and abroad. The settlement of certain accounts, and an improvement in profitability at site level, have contributed to successful trading by the Construction Division in the UK, though the Specialist Contracting Division was less fortunate. The Construction Division will again benefit from a further contribution from Middle East operations in the second half of the year. The RMD Construction Equipment and Plant divisions have continued to operate profitably, and there was an increased contribution from our Materials Supply operations.

I am hopeful that the overall result for the full year will be comparable with that achieved to 31st March, 1980. Our long established policy of diversification, within trading areas of which we have sufficient knowledge and experience, is sustaining the Group in these times of recession.

On 24th November, 1980 the Douglas Group achieved 50 years of trading in these highly competitive industries and looks forward with confidence to the future.

- The Directors have declared an interim dividend in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1981 of 1.1p (1980: 1.1p) per ordinary share of 25p, absorbing £111,286 (1980: £106,425 after amounts waived totalling £4,861), which will be payable on 8th April, 1981 to members on the Register at the close of business on 17th March, 1981.

12th February, 1981
J. R. T. DOUGLAS, Chairman

Thomson over giveaway directories

in Yellow Pages

Only after the Thomson project was announced last July. LTR and General Telephone will, apparently, produce the current Yellow Pages directories in addition to the local giveaway version. If the circulation area wishes that of a Thomson publication, it could land the luckless householder with three overlapping publications.

Mr Robin Eyres, managing director of Thomson Directories, said yesterday that the company had already published three directories: inournemouth, Bradford and Kingston. A further three for Reading, Middlesbrough and Leamford, would be distributed during March and April.

The company was planning to sell a further 120 directories this year and had, as its target, some 200 directories covering 80 per cent of the United Kingdom population by the end of 1982. The selling is carried out by the staff who were formerly employed on producing Yellow Pages.

The reaction from the market has been extremely encouraging", Mr Eyres said. Mr Eyres said he understood a number of companies other than British Telecom had looked at the directory business because the market in Britain appeared underdeveloped. In comparison to other European countries.

David Howson

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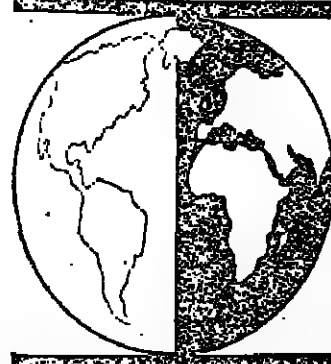
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Reparation for British Ceylon shareholders

British, Sri Lankan and other shareholders of the British Ceylon Corporation, the biggest company in the coconut products industry, which with three subsidiary companies was nationalized on February 25, 1972, are now to receive compensation totalling 16.47 million rupees (£395,000).

The compensation includes the payment of interest which was decided on by the present United National Party Government and which amounts to 5.7m rupees (£136,700). To enable the payment of compensation, the corporation and its subsidiaries are to be placed in voluntary liquidation. At the time of nationalization, the company's chairman was the late Mr Robert Singleton-Salmon who had been the last British member of Sri Lanka's Parliament until 1970.

Slower price growth

Consumer price growth in the Western industrialized world slowed in December to a monthly rate of 0.7 per cent from 0.8 per cent in November and October and one per cent in September, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said in Paris.

Indo-Soviet trade

The Soviet Union is likely to emerge as the largest buyer of Indian consumer and engineering goods in the next five years, under a trade agreement signed during President Leonid Brezhnev's recent visit to India.

Italy's reserves fall

Italy's net official reserves fell 3.5 per cent in December to \$59,569m (£25,787m) from \$61,706m (£26,712m) in November but were up from \$58,160m (£24,519m) the previous year.

Japan trade deficit

Japan's Customs-cleared trade balance turned into a deficit of \$2,480m (£1,080m) in January from a preliminary \$1,480m December surplus, but narrowed from a \$3,450m deficit a year earlier.

Report urges shift in public policy and aid from large companies Helping hand for small businesses

A further shift in public policy in favour of small businesses, is one of the main recommendations of a report on the promotion of small business out yesterday. The report, commissioned by Shell UK from the Economists Advisory Group, compares measures in seven countries.

It says that UK public policy has been gradually shifting in favour of small businesses since 1971, when the committee of inquiry on small firms (the Bolton committee) reported. "But progress has been maddeningly slow," commented Mr Graham Bannock, the EAG's managing director and co-author of the report. "The scale and range of measures to promote small business in Britain is tiny compared with all the other countries studied."

Specific recommendations include the introduction of a state credit guarantee scheme. Another is that a proportion of North Sea revenues should be paid annually into an invested fund for the next 10 years.

The revenue from this fund, with capital and interest payments on loans made from it, should be loaned to small businesses at interest rates not more than those at which blue chip companies can borrow.

More could be done by large companies to promote small business, the report says. "Most activity is confined to only a small proportion of the 100 largest companies, and the nationalized industries (except British Steel) are conspicuous by their absence in this field."

Purchasing and sub-contracting, as well as hiring off unprofitable activities to small business, all offer practical scope, it says. For example, the Co-operative Wholesale Society has made a special effort to market local products from small companies with spectacular success.

In addition, small businesses could do more to help themselves. Mr Bannock said he regarded the chambers of commerce as an important channel where representation could be improved at national and local government level. However there was also a strong case for giving British chambers of commerce the same public law status and assured revenue that they enjoyed in several European countries, Mr Bannock said.

Apart from more apprenticeships, the best way of increasing industrial influence over education and training would be to involve the chambers of commerce more

deeply. Once public law status for the chambers was introduced, they could influence secondary education more.

"In continental Europe, it is they and not the universities, business schools or government agencies which control the bulk of post-school education." The report adds that training in small companies is almost completely neglected by public support services.

In Germany, Austria and Switzerland, about half of all leavers from compulsory schooling take apprenticeships, about 80 per cent of them in small companies. In Britain, only about 18 per cent of school leavers become apprentices.

"In Britain, business generally has insufficient influence over education. The result is that school leavers are ill-prepared for private sector employment and very few indeed are prepared for the possibility that they might work for themselves."

The Promotion of Small Business: a survey country study is published by Shell UK, PO Box 148, Shell Mex House, The Strand, London WC2R 0DX.

Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Wider role planned for BNO

By Our industrial staff

A much-expanded role for the British National Oil Corporation in the development of North Sea resources over the next decade has been forecast by Mr Malcolm Ford, head of development for the group.

BNO could be employing twice its present workforce before the 1980s are over, "given a reasonable share of new (exploration) blocks and reasonable freedom to invest by Government", Mr Ford said yesterday.

The corporation employs 1,930 people, of whom 950 are based in Glasgow, 780 in Aberdeen and 200 in its London office.

Mr Ford told a meeting of the Institute of Petroleum in Glasgow that the public failed to appreciate sometimes that BNO was not a government supervisory agency.

Mr Ford's remarks come on the eve of a Bill to be introduced by Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, allowing the public to invest directly in state-owned interests in the North Sea.

The Bill is expected to give the minister powers to offer shares in BNO and to issue a loan stock linked to those fields in which BNO has a stake. It is thought that the Government wants to issue some £500m worth of small denomination "revenue bonds" available over Post Office counters.

UK investment boosts Ireland's growth rate

By John Huxley

Despite world-wide recession and rising unemployment, the Irish Republic's drive for industrial growth resulted in record levels of job creation and manufacturing investment last year, it was claimed yesterday.

More than 2,000 jobs came from British companies. New industrial projects approved by the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland (IDA) during 1980 would result in the creation of 35,600 jobs, Mr Patrick White, the new managing director, said.

Of these, 17,000 jobs will come from American, European and Japanese companies, while an estimated 2,000 will be with British companies entered into investing in the Irish Republic. This is the highest number of jobs created by British companies in any year since the IDA opened its offices in London 10 years ago, and represents fixed asset investment of 17m punts (about £12.6m).

Commenting on the IDA's success with British industry, much of it in the services sector, Mr White said that the jobs target was "reasonably modest". He added that economic change was healthy for both countries.

The actual number of jobs created in 1980 was 17,000—a total which the IDA admits was not much larger than the number of jobs lost because of the decline of traditional industries.

Indeed, unemployment in the Republic now stands at about 10.8 per cent, an increase of about a third on last year. Much of the increase was explained by the growth of the labour



Mr Patrick White: "Reasonably modest" jobs target.

market which was swelled by school-leavers.

Half of Ireland's population is under 25 and the Government has launched a massive job-creation programme. This year, the IDA aims to approve grant aid for projects that will create 30,000 jobs, the same target as for 1980.

The authority dismisses allegations that its incentives contravene Community law, but says they are "unmatched in Europe". They include a maximum tax rate of 10 per cent on manufacturing industry profits until the 21st century.

Single trade and industry body urged

By Peter Hill

Urgent reorganization of the Departments of Trade and Industry into a single department was called for last night in the interests of developing a coherent approach to a big part of the private business sector.

Mr Alan Lord, managing director of Dunlop Holdings, and formerly second permanent secretary at the Treasury, said in a lecture that he had never seemed sensible to separate the two departments particularly in a nation with a higher proportion of exports than almost any other.

Speaking on government and industry at the Royal Institute of Public Administration, he said that the two departments had previously operated as a single unit and although there had been organizational problems, by the mid-1970s the DTI was beginning to achieve considerable success.

"The harvest was there to be reaped, but it was never actually gathered in; and in my view the sooner the two departments are put back together the better."

There would no doubt be short-term costs from that reorganization and it might well be that in the immediate future there would be relatively little change in the realities of life.

"But there would at least be then a single department with the framework for a coherent approach to a major part of the private business sector," he said.

New outlook for window frames of plastic

Leaders of the plastics processing industry have launched a campaign to win a greater share of the £1,600m a year market for window frames, dominated by timber and aluminium users.

The British Plastics Federation estimates that the installed value of windows (including the cost of labour and glass) is about £400m in home improvement alone. The value of windows in new buildings is worth far more, perhaps as much as £1,200m a year.

So far, the share taken by plastic frames is small—probably less than one per cent. In West Germany, by contrast, plastic accounts for almost half of window-frame sales.

Mr Alan Bell, chairman of the federation's newly-formed Plastics Windows Group, explained yesterday that the sales campaign would be directed primarily towards the "replacement" market at first, where it was hoped to increase to 10 per cent the share of plastic windows during 1981. This would mean increasing the value of installed windows to about £45m, of which the plastics extrusions would be worth about a quarter.

Last year, an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes of plastics were converted into window frames. The new group, made up of more than 40 manufacturing companies, hopes to have increased the volume to 20,000 tonnes a year by 1985.

Plastic windows are made mainly from PVC. Their porters argue that they are more efficient insulators, reduce the likelihood of condensation, and, most important of all, perhaps, do not require painting, do not chip, flake, pit or rot.

Mr Bell, who is managing director of a plastics company which will alone spend £1m on consumer advertising this year, says that plastic window frames are "price-competitive with aluminium products. Although they are more expensive than wooden frames they last much longer."

The plastics federation hopes that a British standard for plastic windows will be produced by the British Standards Institute later this year. If this proves difficult—and it did for aluminium windows—the federation has indicated that it will try to issue its own guidelines.

The move into the windows market marks a further initiative by the plastics industry to provide substitutes for more traditional products. In the construction industry this has already gone a long way and companies producing asbestos, clay and concrete alternatives have been on the defensive.

John Huxley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Big rise in standing charges

From the Chairman of The British Association of Retired Persons

Sir, John Bray's letter January 29, and Gordon May's reply (29 and 30), have been of particular interest to us, as we have recently conducted an opinion poll of our thousands of members throughout the United Kingdom on the associated question of "standing charges" for gas, electricity and telephones.

From the overwhelming response which we received there is no doubt that while substantial increases in unit costs have been recently introduced, these are small compared with the rises in standing charges. These bear most heavily on small users and retired persons, who, while they try by strict economizing, to make a little reduction in the unit usage, find this totally negated by the huge increases in standing charges.

To take gas as an example, in my gas bill for April, 1980, the unit charge per therm (after the initial minimum charge) was 16.50p, while the standing charge was £2.16 per quarter. My latest gas bill in January 1981, shows the bulk consumption charge at 21.2p and £6 for the standing charge. This indicates an increase of no less than 28 per cent in the unit price, and incredibly of 170 per cent in the standing charge. And all in less than a year, too.

The standing charge cannot be avoided, however hard one may try to economize, and this huge increase is virtually highway robbery of the consumer. It is a totally unjustifiable added burden which bears most heavily on the small user, that is, the poor and needy, and the retired living on fixed or nearly-fixed small incomes. Many British Association of Retired Persons (BARP) mem-

bers tell us that their standing charges are now considerably in excess of their cost of gas used. The excuse for rising gas prices was to restrict consumption of the "wasting asset" of North Sea gas, but big increases in standing charges cannot be justified on this score, nor can they be justified when the gas board's profits are so enormous. Similar increases in electricity and telephone bills are also appearing and the public seem to be at the mercy of the high-waysmen of nationalization. It is high time that the Government took urgent steps to put a stop to this robbery.

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,
IAN MACKENZIE,
Chairman,
The British Association of Retired Persons,
14 Frederick Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 2HB,
February 7.

Conversion rates when using credit cards

From Mr J. M. Lichtig

Sir, Mr S. Proctor (February 10) is correct when he suggests the use of an Access card rather than a Visa/Barclaycard over-

seas. Travelling through Israel early last year, I used both cards, but all the transactions effected by me were paid for in United States dollars, as opposed to Israeli lira (as the currency was still called then).

The result? My Access statement correctly showed dollar transactions converted into pound sterling, but with Visa/Barclaycard statements showed transactions in Israeli lira, converted into pounds sterling, without any reference to payments in dollars at all. An exchange of letters and a telephone call to the Barclaycard centre in Northampton revealed the following:

1. Transactions made outside the United Kingdom and charged in the local currency are converted directly from that currency into sterling, for example: Switzerland—Swiss francs into sterling.

2. Transactions made outside the United Kingdom but charged in a currency other

Travelling first-class by Qantas

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, I recently travelled on a first-class ticket to Bahrain. My outward journey was with British Airways whose service I found to be very good. My return journey was intended to be with BA but unfortunately their flight was cancelled. I therefore transferred to Qantas.

Qantas were not prepared to accept my BA first-class ticket without the payment of a 10 per cent surcharge. I declined to pay this surcharge and instead travelled in their business class. I have since taken this up with Qantas, who I believe to be members of IATA, who advised me that their 10 per cent surcharge is for better service, cuisine, more space between seats, etc. but not for the better service. The surcharge is only one missing on the BA outward journey was the special earphones.

No doubt many business travellers on the Australian route book their tickets on Qantas without knowing about their surcharge as their bookings are done through their secretaries or travel agents. My own travel agent is unaware of the 10 per cent surcharge and quoted me the same first-class fare for BA and Qantas.

Ivor Hall & Associates Limited,
34 Elsham Gardens,
London N6 6DD,
February 10.

Overseas mail charges

From Mr Laszlo Gombos

Sir, The Director of International Post Affairs has written to you (February 6) justifying increases in overseas mail rates and (of course, claims that these increases are more than justified). I submit that his presentation is not complete since he makes no allowance at all for the benefit arising from the higher value of the pound. In ordinary commercial accounting one would allow for lower costs—not only for increased costs—and perhaps if this normal method were to be followed, the service made more efficient and the administration lightened, we would not be faced in this and other public services with automatic increases whenever one cost element goes up.

Incidentally, the lower postage rates have been so drastically dropped? LASZLO GOMBOS, Garrick Club, London WC2E 9AY.

Calendar design

From Mr F. Ellis

Sir, Mr A. C. Jarrold (February 10) asks us how we like our calendars. I must prefer one single horizontal list for each month, from the first to the last day of the month with Sundays in red. The layout suits calendars with or without a pictorial element and is perfectly legible. Some Swiss calendars use the layout with great effect. F. ELLIS, 39 Limes Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4AU.

New telephone kiosks

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, British Telecom have recently installed on a busy junction in Cambridge two of their new acrylic-shield open telephone boxes, making the claim for them that they are more vandal-proof than traditional boxes, and more modern in appearance.

The thinking behind this seems to me confused. For one thing, in an open kiosk without door the apparatus would seem more vulnerable to the attention of passing vandals, no less than in a box with the standard resistant door. I suspect it more likely that they are designed to need less attention: having no floor, they can accumulate no litter.

GRAHAM CHAINEY,
47 St Barnabas Road,
Cambridge CB1 2BX,
February 10.

Appreciating 'sea-kindly' ships

From Mr D. Laurent Giles

Sir, Hugh Whitwell's elegant verse (February 11) castigating my use of the expression "sea-kindly" raises wide implications. Sea-kindly has been used by English seafarers since time immemorial to describe the behaviour of a ship or boat as moving gently in her natural element. ("OE" "sae" and "gecyndlic"). In my experience the expression was most notably used by the great "Bubbles" Smith of Lymington, one of the most lucid exponents of the essential qualities of different ships from Men o' War to the Lymington Pram. Indeed, in his case, the expression was often adapted to describe the behaviour of any craft, vessel or variety—and in an astounding instance of situations from his own fishing boat to the Mew Langton Beer Boat or even the serene progress of Mrs Alice Doe on her bicycle.

This delicious expression has nothing to do with the more mundane word "seaworthy" which simply implies mathematics and safety at sea and is of no philosophical consequence. If Mr Whitwell still doubts me I would gladly take him to sea in my own little boat to illustrate the point. DAVID GILES, Thornycroft, Giles & Associates Ltd., The Embankment, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 0AP, Isle of Wight PO35 5NS, February 11.

MINING SUPPLIES

(Designers and manufacturers of mining machinery, forgings and steel alloy castings. Structural and electrical engineers)

A good half-year

26 week period ended 25th Oct. 1980 27th Oct. 1979

(Figures subject to year-end audit)

Sales £14,091,000 £10,017,000

Trading profit before tax 2,370,000 551,000

Profit after tax 1,185,000 270,000

Provision for tax is after charging depreciation of £464,000 (1979 - £429,000).

Provision for tax has been calculated at 52% on the trading profit for the period as adjusted for tax purposes.

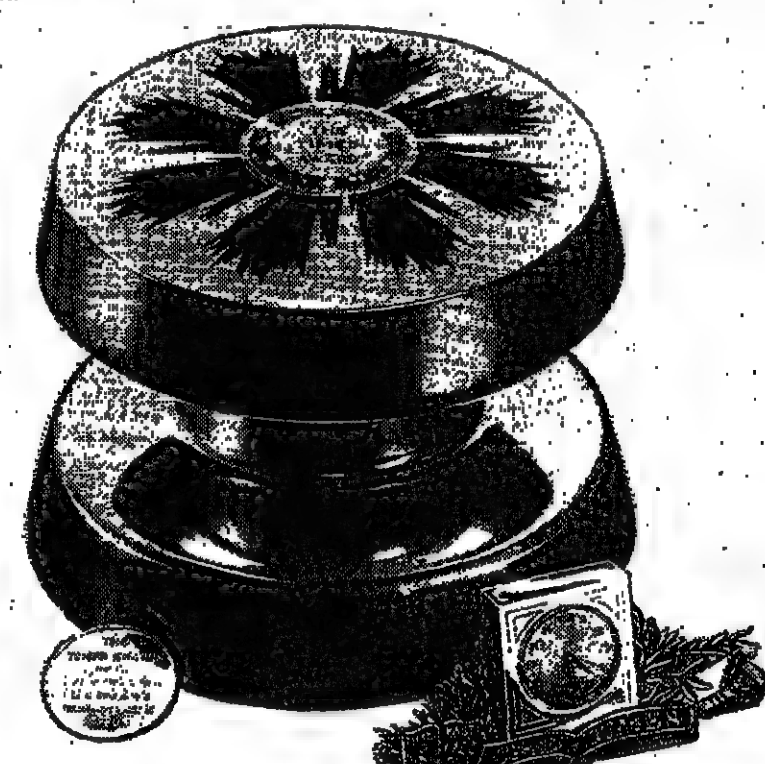
The above figures do not include trading results of Laurence Scott Group, control of which was acquired after 25th October, 1980.

"The Group continues to operate with a reasonably good order book. Coal mining business in the U.K. has been affected by recently announced cut-backs. Fortunately export orders for mining machinery forms a major part of our existing business which should see us through 1981 without any serious need to cut-back on production.

New foreign subsidiaries have been formed in our mining division in Australia and South Africa. The prospects for expansion in overseas markets with the establishment of production units and service departments is most encouraging and will, as a result of our recent acquisition of Laurence Scott Limited, offer more opportunities for additional products.

It is the board's intention to at least maintain a dividend of 2.0p per share for the current year."

A. Snipe, Chairman.



The Times Awards 1980 Winners.

The winning entries for The Times Awards were those advertisements which, in the opinion of the judges, would leave the reader with the impression that the company would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or in which to invest. The advertisements were judged in terms of good use of typography, design and copy to convey the relevant information.

The task of the independent panel of judges was made particularly exacting by the number, range, and quality of entries from industry, commerce and finance.

The Grand Prix.

The Times is pleased to announce that the winner of the 1980 Grand Prix is:
Unilever Ltd.
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.
Their entry was judged to be the advertisement that best conveyed, by way of typography, design and copy, information relevant to shareholders, professional advisers, prospective investors and all concerned in the company's well-being; in short, an advertisement that would leave the reader with the impression that the company would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or in which to invest.

Judges' Special Awards.

Overseas Company
Creditanstalt-Bankverein
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.
Smaller Advertisement
200 x 4 columns or less
Powell Duffryn Ltd.
Agency: Streets Financial Ltd.
Special Award
The most significant contribution to new imaginative thinking in financial advertising.
ICFC Ltd.
Agency: Doyle Dane Bernbach Ltd.

Category Winners.

Category 1a
Annual Results. Colour or mono. Half page or larger, or equivalent.
1st: Lloyds Ltd.
Agency: Walter Judd Ltd.
2nd: International Thomson Organisation Ltd.
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.
3rd: Reckitt & Colman Ltd.
Agency: Dove Rogerson Ltd.
Category 1b
Annual Results. Colour or mono. Less than half a page or equivalent.
1st: Booker McConnell Ltd.
Agency: Valin Pollen Ltd.
2nd: London Trust Company Ltd.
Agency: Valin Pollen Ltd.
3rd: S & W Benford Ltd.
Agency: Streets Financial Ltd.

Category 2
Interim Results. Colour or mono. All sizes.
1st: Consolidated Goldfields Ltd.
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.
2nd: Pearson Longman Ltd.
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.
3rd: Charterhouse Group Ltd.
Agency: Dove Rogerson Ltd.
Category 3
Preliminary Results. Colour or mono. All sizes.
1st: J Sainsbury Ltd.
Agency: Streets Financial Ltd.
2nd: C T Bowring and Co Ltd.
Agency: Walter Judd Ltd.
3rd: British Sugar Corporation
Agency: Charles Barker CBCLtd.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Frank Vogl talks to the chairman of Exxon

Imperial's unfulfilled promise

The all too familiar tale from Imperial group after the fifth consecutive year of virtually static profits is one of immense untapped potential if only the right keys can be turned. But for the time being, Imperial looks like a group travelling nowhere quickly and the income stock stigma holds fast.

Pre-tax profits are down £15.4m at £26.9m and, allowing for an unexpected cost of £5m or so as a result of accountancy changes, are much in line with market forecasts. But the mainstay of the dividend is the shares 2p to 8p where a yield of 2.8 per cent explains a fully taxed p/e of 9.

Once again, the unfashionable tobacco interests have provided the mainstay for Imperial's trading surplus fractionally to £80.4m though fierce competition saw a sharp deterioration in the second-half, which hardly augurs well given most Budget expectations. Courage also raised its contribution from £4m to £42.4m, boosted by reconstruction of the Harp lager interests while the United States Howard Johnson purchase is remarkably well to turn in £13.3m for a half-year and to leave something over for financing costs of £11.5m.

But the continuing squeeze on egg and poultry prices in the United Kingdom has hit the food surplus down by more than half to £10.3m, while paper, board and plastics losses widened to £3.3m in the face of heavy losses at the now closed Bristol mill.

For the current year, scope for the United Kingdom interests appear minimal with open riding on a sharp consumer spending turn in the second-half to offset a poor interim period. Ho-Jo may yet prove the buyer of the century but until Imperial completes a management studies it is not going to provide any fireworks.

Meanwhile, the balance sheet has come through the Ho-Jo purchase in fine shape, its gearing has jumped to close on 78 per cent but should settle back to nearer 65 per cent when Imperial cashes in its remaining 106m of gilts to satisfy most of the £141m overdraft due outstanding as a result of its deal and takes in asset realisations.

Profits could work out at little more than test figures without significant United Kingdom recovery, but, as ever, the dividend looks reasonably sound although only 1.5 times covered historically and fractionally short-earned on a CCA basis.

Dowty

Feeling the

NCB cutbacks

Dowty's shares have been under pressure in recent weeks, sandwiched between fears about the impact of the National Coal Board's cutbacks and hopes based on Dowty's booming aerospace business. The market had been paying most attention to a bearish argument about the surprisingly low interim figures, showing a £1.7m rise in profits to £19.1m pretax, sent the shares surging up 22p to 215p.

The mining division has indeed been suffering with volume down by over one fifth and profits by a third to £5.7m. There is been no replacement for the Chinese order, the NCB cutbacks have been hurting it there is every indication that worse is to come in the second half and possibly next year too. In fact, NCB ordering has been chopped by about two-fifths and Dowty is clearly hoping the Government will relent on cash limits.

In contrast, aerospace has seen volume rise as the Tornado hit full production and Argus have recovered after suffering from engineering strike last year. The result is a two-thirds rise in profits to £10.7m and this division is still going strong.

So with the small electronics division taking progress and helping to offset the problems in the industrial division which is now bumbling along the bottom, Dowty should still keep profits moving ahead during the recession and be able to cover its capital requirements from cash flow. Full-year profits should be about £39m, suggesting a more or less static second half overall, though because of the new stock relief it is earnings per share will probably be down.

Assuming the final dividend rises by a sixth like the interim, the shares yield 3.3 per cent and the prospective p/e ratio is

about 15. With Dowty now in a quieter phase because of the problems in mining equipment the shares may not go far in the short-term but still look soundly based on a longer view.

Sugar

Organizing the home market

As if their nerves were not already stretched enough by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission enquiry into S. & W. Berisford's bid for British Sugar, shareholders in those companies and in Tate & Lyle now have to take into account Mr Peter Walker's thoughts on how the United Kingdom sugar market should be organized. The key is how much a reduction in the supply of sugar to the British market would diminish BSC's attractiveness.

Not for the first time, Mr Walker is suggesting a cut of 200,000 tonnes in Britain's EEC sugar quota, with the quite reasonable proviso that other countries' quotas are reduced too. This would lower allowable beet sugar production in Britain to about 1.15m tonnes, roughly BSC's current maximum output but 100,000 tonnes below its target.

BSC will fight tooth and nail to stop any thwarting of its ambitions, but a quota reduction would be warmly welcomed at Tate & Lyle and Berisford. A major problem for BSC is that five or six of its factories produce less than 3,500 tonnes a day of sliced beet than is considered the economic minimum. Some of these factories are unprofitable, and a quota reduction could tip them over the edge. As it is, all of the company's £150m investment has been concentrated in six bigger factories.

Some market cynics in any case think that Mr Walker's ideas were only intended to throw a smokescreen around the closure of Tate's Liverpool refinery. That aside, it seems unlikely they will come to fruition. If the Monopolies and Mergers Commission rules against Berisford, BSC will be free to pursue its aggressive production and marketing campaign, which could mean further encroachments on Tate's territory, despite the latter's reckoning that the market is approximately in balance. If Berisford's bid proceeds, the company could find itself emeshed in the quota tangle, its loyalties divided between BSC and the cane producers and refiners.

British Steel Corporation's discussions with the bulk steel producers in the private sector have tended to overshadow the plight of smaller special steel groups trying to eke out a living from a decreasing number of customers.

Even though the results of BSC's talks with Dupont, Tube Investments, GKN and Hadfield are unlikely to have any direct effect on the smaller groups, it is they who will have to live with the new market environment which emerges. Many, already on short time, have taken unpleasant measures to cut overheads. But the subsequent deterioration means that this year they may have to decide whether to remain in steel making.

Special steel is a highly fragmented business falling into three main areas, highly specialized alloy for aerospace, defence and nuclear industries; high speed and tool steel for hand tool and machine cutting; and stainless steel.

At the top of the alloy market Johnson & Firth Brown told shareholders this week that they had made a first-quarter loss but should make profits in the second half, with their optimism stemming from restocking orders from Rolls-Royce.

Aurora, in high speed and tool steel has lost its acquisition thirst, having rationalized Edgar Allen Balfour and Samuel Osborne just as the market dropped from beneath it. Neepsend, reporting soon for the half year, has already warned that the current year they will at best break even, it is probable that it has not made money on steel in the past five years.

The stock market has been nervous of steel stocks since GKN's results. Johnson, Aurora and Neepsend are all historically yielding well over 30 per cent. But yesterday's raid on F. Pratt, which stirred the engineering sector, demonstrated that this level of discounts to assets is liable to provoke a flurry of takeover activity.

Washington
Mr Clifton C. Garvin, Jr. started work 34 years ago at the age of 25 as a process engineer at an Exxon refinery in Louisiana. Today he is perhaps the most powerful industrialist in America. His views will not only influence the economic programme that President Reagan announces next Wednesday, but will be heard frequently in the White House over the next four years.

Mr Garvin is both chairman of Exxon, the world's largest industrial company in terms of sales volume, and head of the Business Roundtable, a select policy group which is the prime spokesman of big business's views in the United States.

Mr Garvin is cautiously optimistic about the economic policies of the United States, but he is concerned deeply about the precarious state of global oil supplies.

He says that the business community is confident that the Reagan Administration will come to grips with the fundamental problems of inflation and productivity.

"We just know instinctively that we as a nation are living beyond our means and spending more than we are able to generate and that our search for equity, as it were, among all the people in the country, may just have been taken too far."

Mr Garvin expects the new President to put forward policies that reduce public spending as a percentage of gross national product and provide incentives to boost savings and investment.

"We do not expect overnight miracles. It is going to take a considerable period of time for the nation to readjust from the way it has been going and we hope he will stand firm."

The Exxon chief says that the President's ability to hold fast and take the criticism that his programme of large spending cuts will involve (particularly as they will produce very little improvement in the economy's health this year) is going to be absolutely critical, but he is confident that Mr Reagan will be firm.



Mr Clifton C. Garvin, chairman of Exxon and head of the Business Roundtable, the influential body of top American industrialists: he is cautiously optimistic about the United States's economic policies.

What industry, desperately needs from the Government, Mr Garvin says, is consistent policies. He hopes the Congress will adopt the Reagan Administration's approach of planning, tax and spending programmes on a full four-year basis.

He says that it is clear that now there will be much closer compatibility of views between business and government and that cooperation will develop.

"I believe we need to change the pattern of the last 20 years, which has been one of confrontation."

He is not keen on the idea of an American "social contract" but says that there are broad policy areas where government, business and the trade unions should work together. He knows of no administration plans to develop such coordination.

"I do not suggest we change the normal relationship that exists in this country between management and labour. I think

it is a healthy one and personally I am not looking for change."

Mr Garvin hopes that this government will help to improve the general image of business in America. He laments that he does not know how the public view of oil companies can be improved. "You will find today that the oil industry is at the bottom of the list next to Congress in terms of the confidence people have. We are greatly disturbed by that and we do not know how to change the public perception of 225 million Americans."

Turning to energy policy, Mr Garvin says that he is somewhat surprised that President Reagan moved so fast to decontrol oil prices. He hopes that the Administration will now go on to decontrol natural gas prices.

Americans had surprised many people recently by conserving oil and the conservation effort was going to continue.

Mr Garvin is clearly worried about the oil outlook. How do you secure oil price moderation among the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries?

Obviously United States policy towards the Middle East, and Israel is a factor with Arab oil exporters and, says Mr Garvin, as long as there is no real solution involving the Palestinians says Mr Garvin, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will use the situation as an excuse in their oil price-setting strategies.

It has never been clear though if you could wave a magic wand and solve all these political problems to everyone's satisfaction, that these oil problems would go away. We are dealing with finite reserves that are disappearing under a number of decades. The real difficulty that we have had has not been higher oil prices as such, but the rapidity of the price increases.

"You hope that the powerful Opec countries will see that the wellbeing of the industrial world and the developing nations is in their own interest, too. They say they see this. But it depends upon what one views

as being harmful. "It has been my belief that those in Opec that think like this and see this also believe that they can make the judgment as to what the danger point is for the industrial world and what price rise gets the world into trouble. In all fairness we cannot even take that judgment ourselves in our own country."

Under present circumstances, every public planner must reckon with the distinct possibility of another oil price shock, another sudden sharp increase in prices. Mr Garvin's analysts at Exxon say that the minimum increase in 1981 will be equal to inflation. But the Iran-Iraq war, for example, has made matters desperately uncertain.

Mr Garvin explains that the supply and demand equation today suggests a shortage of one million barrels of oil a day. There is a shortage of supply. Now there is still an excess of working inventories of what we would guess at 300 to 400 million barrels in the free world. You can pull on that for almost a year at one million barrels a day.

"How did I get my one million barrels a day figures for the shortage? At the start of the Iran-Iraq war cut off about four million barrels of exports. Now the two together are exporting up to one million barrels a day as far as we can find out. The other Opec countries have gone up by maybe as much as one million barrels a day. Now we have new production in the North Sea and Mexico and places outside the Opec adding up to maybe another one million barrels in 1981.

"We can see a way through this year, but it does not leave any leeway for anything to happen, if the war intensifies, or they go at each other in a different way. It is too big a system to have that fine a balance. Ideally the system runs with 4 to 5 per cent spare. That is the way you are sure everyone gets what the want. How many years we are going to see ahead with that sort of spare is something I wouldn't want to guess. I would guess not very many."

Technology

Using the laser as a scalpel

Surgeons are learning to use the laser beam with the same degree of skill as that with which they wield the scalpel. Lasers are now being used in America, Israel and Britain.

Ophthalmic surgery, gynaecology and even the removal of tattoos are all fields where they are making an impact.

Laser (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation) is used to describe what happens to a molecule or ion of a substance, usually in a mixture of gases like helium, carbon dioxide, neon or argon, when it is excited by stimulating it with an electric charge or light from a lamp.

This excitation forces the molecules or ions of gas into an "unstable" state in which they are no longer stable. As they return to their previous state, packages or "photons" of light are emitted. These photons when concentrated together constitute a laser beam.

The surgeon is able, depending on the type of gas used in the laser and the power emitted, to use the tool either as a cutting edge or as a coagulator (blood thickener).

The surgical use of lasers dates back to the early sixties when the first laser was used to cut a rod made from ruby stone were used as a coagulator. The rod, about 150mm long and 10mm in diameter, was excited by flashes of light from a xenon lamp or similar source.

As the technology of lasers progressed, artificial stones were used in place of the ruby. These lasers are used as coagulators during gastric surgery.

The light from the laser is passed down an optical telescope into the stomach to arrest gastric bleeding.

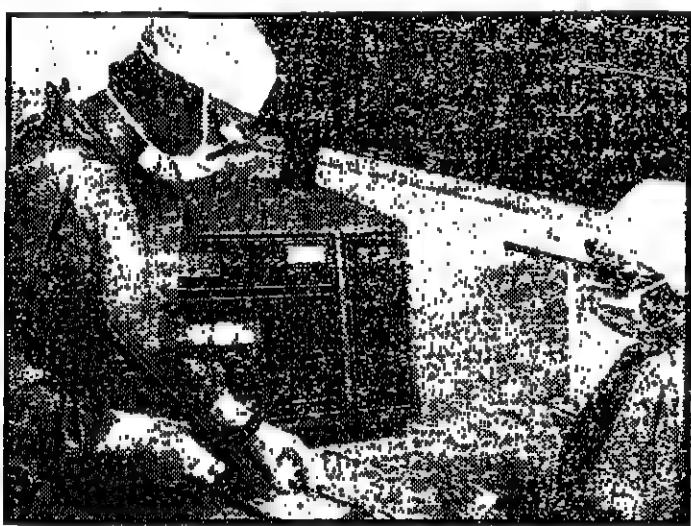
The other type of laser, mainly used as a cutting edge, is the carbon dioxide laser, which would typically be about one metre long and 5-10mm in diameter. The gas is excited by an electric current and can produce about 40 watts power. This laser is being used in Britain and America for surgical operations in gynaecology.

The surgical laser emits between 20 and 40 watts and has the beam focused on an area of about 0.5mm square. At each end of the laser rod (whether gas, mirror or of the ruby type) a mirror or other type of reflecting surface is attached, so that the light resulting from the chemical reaction in the tube can be concentrated into a beam.

In a gas laser the process begins by the gas, either carbon dioxide, neon or helium and nitrogen or a mixture of helium and neon being excited electrically in an effect not dissimilar to that seen in an ordinary fluorescent light tube. As each gas molecule is excited and then later discharges its energy, a cascade reaction occurs along the entire length of the tube.

The mirrors focus the emitted packages of light along the axis of the tube into a beam which is emitted from one end of the tube.

A flexible lever similar to that used by a dentist is then attached to the laser allowing the light to be manipulated at the will of the surgeon.



A surgeon using a laser device in the operating theatre.

As a cutting tool a laser gives the surgeon fresh scope in exercising his skill.

The cells of the body are effectively small bags full of water. As the laser cuts the cells the water is raised from body temperature of 37 degrees to 100 degrees centigrade. The water then changes from water to steam at the same temperature.

The energy is provided by the laser.

The laser is a quite different tool from the scalpel and the surgeon must choose the type which will give him either a good cutting edge with the secondary effect of a coagulator, or vice versa.

Two recent examples illustrate how the laser is being

used to edge forward surgical techniques. The first was an operation conducted at the beginning of this year by Professor Ron Razin at the Royal Hospital in Tel-Aviv, when he performed a circumcision on a 15-year-old haemophilic boy.

The carbon dioxide laser was able to cut the skin while acting effectively as a coagulator to prevent uncontrollable bleeding.

Another surgical application which has highlighted some of the special characteristics of the carbon dioxide laser is in the removal of tattoos. Skin grafting or acid treatment in the past has been the normal method used.

Last year a London hospital opened a clinic for the removal of tattoos using a process similar to that for cell cutting. The skin is pierced by the laser and the ink of the tattoo is vaporised.

The laser's full potential has yet to be realized, but its usefulness in surgery has already been demonstrated by its modest though impressive performance to date.

Bill Johnstone

Business Diary: Men in the middle • Brandy snip

If the economic strategy of the Reagan administration seems confusing at times, do not be concerned. It seems to be by design. One could suspect that this is part of a deep Machiavellian approach to ensure that the press, public and Congress fail to hang up on the White House as the target keeps on moving.

Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, laments that his job is increasingly becoming one of referee. On one side is his new Under-Secretary for Monetary Affairs, Dr. Barry Prink, one of the most domestic true-blue monetarists ever to have entered the Treasury, and on the other side the Under-Secretary for Tax and Economic Affairs, Dr. Norman Ture, the advocate of supply-side economics.

But Regan's problems are nothing compared to those faced by President Reagan's secretary, George Shultz, president of the Bechtel company, who has just been named chairman of a special economic advisory board to the administration. The board members include Milton Friedman, whose monetarist views have never on much support from Dr. Arthur Laffer, whose supply-side theories are viewed with deep scepticism by Alan Greenspan, the former chairman of the council of economic advisers, is also on the board. There are such ardent ultra-conservative budget cutters as William Simon and Charles Walker, former Treasury Secretary and Deputy Secretary.



"If we can run the old Morris for another three years we should be able to replace it with a truly British Datsun."

George Turnbull, who announced the closure of Linwood on Wednesday must now be regretting the choice he made three and a half years ago when he turned down the chairmanship of BL to help build a motor industry in Iran. On his 15th birthday Turnbull signed indentures for a six-year engineering apprenticeship with Standard Motors, Coventry. When it became part of British Leyland he had agreed to become Standard's deputy chairman.

By 1973 he was managing director of the whole group, but within a few months he had a row with the then Sir Donald Stokes, the chairman, about a since discredited new centralized organization and walked out.

In the following year he surprised everyone by moving to South Korea to become vice-president of the Hyundai Motor Company. When his three-year contract expired he returned with an enhanced reputation to be

sitting in Michael Edwards's chair now.

With the Shah's position beginning to totter and his wife Marjaneh yearning for United Kingdom life again Turnbull quit in 1978. Within a few months he was back in the industry, this time as head of Peugeot's newly acquired Chrysler UK operations.

Britain's largest independent wine and spirits shipper, Matthew Clark, has just landed himself a notable success only to find the company swamped by rumour.

Martell, the cognac, has been handled since the 1830s, may be the best selling brand in Britain, but until now it has not been number one with any of the major breweries.

No longer, since Bass, with more retail outlets than any other, has picked Martell to replace its former chosen premier brand of Remy Martin. Unfortunately for Matthew Clark, the company has moved itself surrounded by rumour in the trade of an imminent takeover by the vast brewing firm.

"Absolutely untrue", said Matthew Clark, director, Sum Gordon Clark. "There is no question of Bass taking us over or that Bass might be taking the whole of the Martell agency. It's purely a business arrangement."

By clinching the Bass deal, Matthew Clark has opened up a new market just in time for what, in the slow-moving world of cognac, is something of a cataclysmic event.

Martell is about to abandon its familiar three star bottles in Britain for a more up-market

image. The result, a modern frosted bottle, will contain exactly the same cognac and be launched on an unsuspecting British public next week.

Lloyds Bank increased its maritime charter portfolio yesterday with the unusual addition of a craft which among other duties will act as an escort to the Royal Yacht Britannia.

In fact, it is likely to spend most of its time servicing navigational buoys and lights and providing accommodation for the annual coastal inspection of navigational aids by Trinity House.

Trinity House is chartering the vessel from Lloyds' equipment leasing subsidiary, in a deal which, the bank says, makes sense for both parties.

On delivery it will join a fleet of 12-owned by Lloyds, including bulk carriers and specialized vessels such as the British Rail ferry MV St Anselm.

Match-makers Bryant & May, producers of the England's Glory series with jockey legends on the backs of the old jokers, to a mere 32. Then the company decided that it wanted some of the old jokers back again and appealed to philantropists, who have passed on boxes from their collections and restored about 6,000 of the old jokers. Example - elephant to his first mouse: "Aren't you little"; mouse, offended: "I've been ill." Ah, well. . .

David Hewson

The Guinness Peat Group

Interim Statement for the year ending 30 April 1981

	6 months to 31 Dec 1980	6 months to 31 Dec 1979	Year ended 30 April 1980
Turnover	281,320	286,695	686,062
sales, brokerage & fee income			
Trading Profits	8,251	10,004	22,918
less-central costs	619	476	938
-non-trading interest	4,079	3,308	6,311
Trading Profits before taxation	3,553	6,220	15,669

EXTRACTS FROM CHAIRMAN'S INTERIM STATEMENT

- The Board have decided to declare an unchanged interim dividend of 2.75p net per share.
- The profits of Guinness Mehon & Co Ltd (not included above) are ahead of the corresponding period last year.
- Commodity broking and dealing, whilst not achieving the exceptional levels of the previous year, have continued to do well.
- There have been particular difficulties in some of our industrial and distribution activities serving the UK market, some of which have shown losses.
- The mix of successes and problems experienced by the Group is not surprising in this difficult year. But we have the strength inherent in the wide spread of our business.

Edmund Dell Chairman

Guinness Peat Group Limited

The above results are based on 11 months 1981 territory from the Guinness Peat Group Limited, 121 Leach Road, London EC2P 2JY.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Feb 9. Dealings End, Feb 27. § Contango Day, March 2. Settlement Day, March 9

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am

For Schools, Colleges: Germany; 9.25

Athlete (Doug

Jump); 9.52 Miss Wood in Dan-

ger; 10.15 Maths; 10.30

Side; 10.35 Going to Work; 11.00

O'yd (this world); 11.25

You and Me: Take My

Hand (4); 11.40

For Schools, Colleges: Living

in the Soil; 12.05 pm Six-

teen Up: Drugs. Closes down at

12.30.

12.45 News; 1.00 Pebble Mill at

One: Today's items include Peter

Seymour's garden tour; Dig

This; 1.45 How Do You Do?

The Counting games and rhymes. With

Caroline Maurice.

2.02 For Schools, Colleges: Docu-

mentary on friendship (with

Liverpool schoolchildren); 2.35 A

Good Job with Prospects. Closes

down at 3.00.

3.20 Extra Dose (shows of yester-

day); 3.55 Play School; 4.00 Ronda and David

Armstrong's story; The Lighthouse

Keeper's Lunch; 4.20 Touché

Turtle; cartoon; Kar-napped.

4.25 Jackson: Sheila Hancock

concludes her readings from

Eleanor Farjeon's The Little

Bookroom; 4.40 Finders Keepers:

New series begins. Children's quiz,

competed by Richard Stilgus. In-

cludes a game of electronic battle-

ships with a difference. 5.05

Grange Hill school serial.

Episode 14. William Watson's

terrifying short cut home. 5.35

The Peckhamers: with Leonard

Ross (7); 5.40 News; 5.45

Regional magazines. And, at

6.20, Nationwide. Alan Titch-

marsh presents his gardening

item, and Desmond Lynam pre-

sents the sports roundup.

7.00 The Superstars: From Bilat

southern Israel. This is the inter-

national contest. Britain's hopes

are pinned on Keith Fiddling, the

Rugby League and Union inter-

national, and Andy Ripley, the

Rugby Union player.

8.00 The Echo: Serial about

women's struggle to win a

place in the medical profession

The last chapter. Tonight:

Sophia Jane Blake (Sara, Kes-
man) suffers a blow to her pride

while taking her medical degree

exam. 8.50 Points of View: Barry

Took comments on viewers' let-

ters about BBC TV pro-

grammes.

8.50 News; with Peter Woods:

5.25 Stars and Butch: Hutch

falls for a Russian ballerina on

police protection. Skitsky in on

the trail of the terrorist who is

threatening to kill her (r); 10.15

Peter Skellern: The auto-

biography of the singer/composer

continues. Tonight: how living in

ships with a difference. 5.05

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continues. Tonight: how living in

ships with a difference. 5.05

Grange Hill school serial.

BBC 2

11.00 am

Play School. Same as

BBC 1. 3.55 The Lighthouse

Keeper's Lunch: Closes down at

11.25.

5.35 pm Charlie Chaplin: The

Rounders, and Laughing Gas. A

double bill. In the first, Charlie

Chaplin is Fatty Arbuckle. In the

second, there is chaos at a dental

surgery. (See Personal Choice).

6.00 Monkey Japanese-made

series. In Old Chino, a

English dubbed dialogue that fits

where it touches—which isn't by

any means everywhere.

6.45 Speech for Yourself: The

series for those whose first lan-

guage is not English. Tonight:

unpredictable at work, and what

to do about it. There is a min-

i-play illustration of the theme.

7.10 News; with sub-titles for the

hard of hearing.

7.20 Oxford Road Show: Young

people put on a show at the

BBC's Manchester studios. With

a lot of Jackie Sprockley and

Paula Yates.

7.55 In the Country: Winter

Reflections. The regular team of

contributors—Angela Ripston, Phil

Drabble, Joe Henson, Gordon

Benningfield and Bernard Price—

take us to their special place in

the country. (See Personal

Choice).

8.25 A Party is Arranged: A

Newsweek investigation into the

prospects for the Council for

Racial Relations. Report by

David Steel and members of

the so-called Gang of Three are

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